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The Old Town Bay St. Louis Artwalk returns for the last time in the 2002 season.

Community, Page 1B

# The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 111, NO. 95 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

WWW.SEACOASTECHO.COM

THREE SECTIONS, 44 PAGES

75 CENTS

Thursday  
Dec. 12, 2002

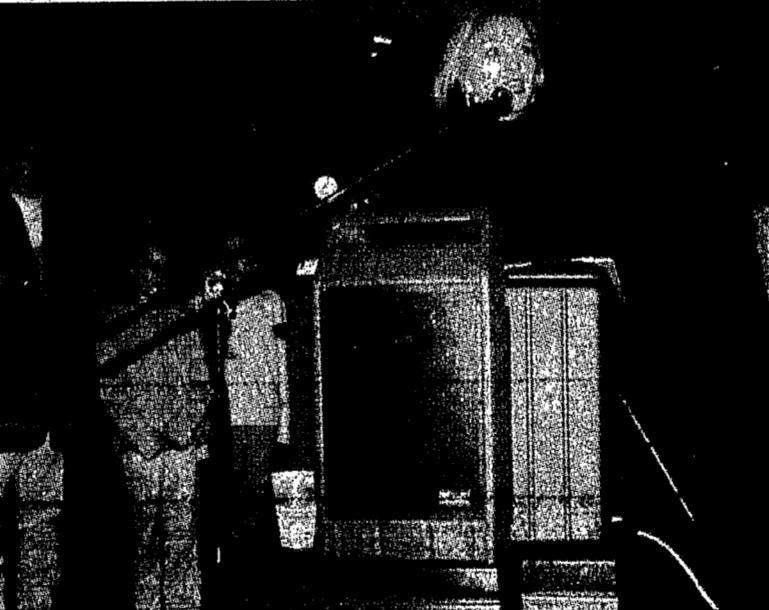
## HOLIDAYS IN HIGH GEAR



The population of Pearlington swelled Saturday afternoon during the community's annual Christmas parade, which included – among others – representatives from East Hancock Fire-Rescue, the Hancock High School Band, the Shriners, motorcycle riders and classic car enthusiasts.



Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher  
Santa Claus stands next to the first-prize winning tree Sunday at the Hancock County Library's Tree Gala. See page 2A for more details.



Echo Staff Photo by Bennie Shallbetter  
Christmas came to Kiln on Monday at the annual Kiln Public Library Community Tree Lighting on Monday. Cool temperatures did nothing to dampen the spirit of the large crowd gathered there to enjoy caroling by the Hancock County High School Choir under the direction of Rita Wilson and the arrival of Santa Claus on the Kiln Volunteer Fire truck.

## Teens charged in armed robbery

17-year-olds accused of stickup at Diamondhead

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS

Publisher Emeritus

Two 17-year-olds were nabbed as suspects in the armed robbery of the Diamondhead BP Station early Wednesday morning, according to Sheriff Steve Garber.



Garber said, "At approximately 3:30 a.m. the Sheriff's Office received a 911 call about the armed robbery. Two black males were reported heading towards the Interstate in a red SUV bearing a Harrison County tag.

"A few minutes later, Deputy Todd Blake spot-

SUSPECTS--PAGE 5A



## Kiln resident killed in crash

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS

Publisher Emeritus

A 20-year-old Kiln resident was killed and a 17-year-old is in critical condition following a late Saturday night one-vehicle accident, according to Hancock County Sheriff Steve Garber.

"The accident occurred on the Chester Lee Road around 11 p.m., and the vehicle's driver, Whitney Davis, 20, of Kiln was killed," Garber said.

CRASH--PAGE 5A

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Editorial Page 4A  
Obituaries Page 8A  
Sports Pages 2-3B  
Classified Pages 6-9B

### TIDES

DAY HIGH NOW	
Mon. 9:25 p.	10:20 p.
Tues. 9:06 p.	8:04 a.
Wed. 10:30 p.	9:26 a.
Thurs. 11:07 p.	10:05 a.

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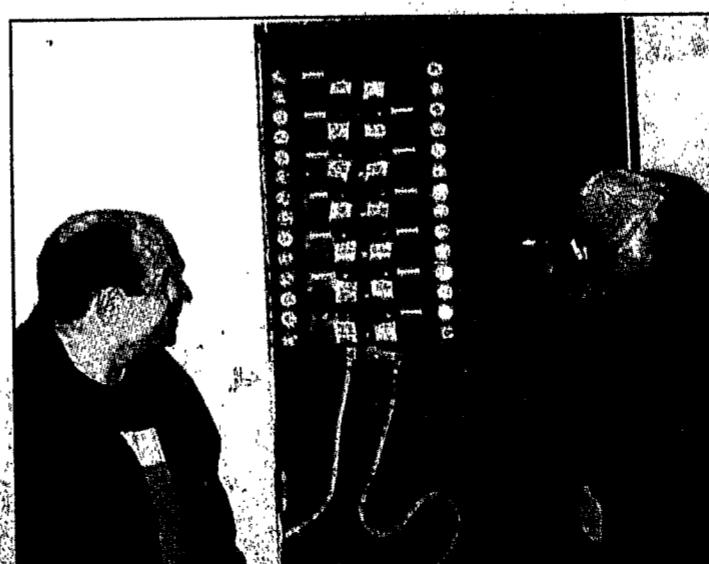
## Bay council takes a close look inside empty Hotel Reed

BY MARY G. SEILEY  
Staff Writer

There was life inside Hotel Reed again Monday, but there was a ghostly air hanging around the building's old ballroom, its corridors, kitchen and bedrooms.

Here and there, something left behind: A stuffed animal propped atop a television set, a few cartons of paperwork yet to be moved, a dust mop dutifully leaning against

REED--PAGE 3A



Echo staff photo by Mary G. Seiley  
Bay St. Louis City Council members Bobby Compreta, right, and Tom Farve inspect a breaker box at Hotel Reed.

## New Waveland board already catching heat

BY GEOFF BELCHER

News Editor

The honeymoon is already over for the brand new Waveland Board of Aldermen.

Just minutes after the new board members' first scheduled meeting began Tuesday – and less than a week after they were sworn in office – they came under fire from former mayoral candidates Joan Coleman and W.E. "Bill" Cross and candidate-for-alderman Jay Trapani.

WAVELAND--PAGE 5A

For News, Advertising or to Subscribe to The Sea Coast Echo, Call (228) 467-5474 FAX: 467-0333

## Holiday Tree Gala winners named

### THE SEA COAST ECHO

More than 900 people attended the Hancock County Library's 2002 Holiday Tree Gala Sunday at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library.

Trees decorated by more than 67 businesses, organizations and schools were on display for the public and will remain in the library until Friday, Jan. 3.

The Best in Show ribbon went to Bay Catholic Elementary, with ornaments made by the students around the theme, Happy Birthday Jesus.

The tree was also the winner of the People's Choice Award, which is presented to the tree who receives the most votes from those attending the event and casting their ballots for the tree they like the most.

The Most Creative Tree went to Bookends Bookstore for a Sweet Potato Queen tree, complete with tiara and colors of pink and green.

The Designer Award was

captured by Adams Lorraine Flower Shop. The tree had a Japanese theme, and features fans, sashes and Japanese ornaments.

The Best New Entrant ribbon was awarded to Evergreen Garden Center, while the Patriotic Award went to the Hancock County Republican Women.

Southern Exposure was named first place winner in the Best Use of Logo category for its ornaments made with film rolls and pictures of clients. Second place went to Pretty Paws for its puppy dog tree.

The tree placed by Hope Haven of Hancock County was named the first place winner in the Outstanding Youth Tree category. Second place went to Little Saints Academy.

The Bay High Student Council was the first place winner in the outstanding six-foot (traditional) category, with Pet Haven Veterinary Hospital placing second.

In the outstanding six-

foot (non-traditional) category, Latter & Blum was named first with its poinsettia tree, with Coast & County Real Estate placing second.

In the outstanding three-foot (traditional) category, Hancock Medical Center was the first place winner, with The Peoples Bank placing second.

Ornaments made with bags of coffee beans highlighted the tree entered by Da Beach House, who placed first in the outstanding three-foot (non-traditional) category.

The Hancock County Master Gardeners received the second place ribbon in the outstanding three-foot (non-traditional) category.

The City of Waveland was named the Best Government Tree, while the City of Bay St. Louis received the award for the Best Holiday Display.

The Best Community Organization tree was clinched by the Point Island Garden Club, with butterfly

ornaments made with painted crab shells.

In the Outstanding Pre-kindergarten/Kindergarten category, the Bay-Waveland Head Start tree won first place, and the Hancock Library's Story Hour tree captured the second place ribbon.

North Bay Elementary's tree won the top honors in the Outstanding Elementary/Middle School category.

First place in the Outstanding Jr. High/High School category was won by Girl Scout Troop #327, and OLA SADD placed second.

A new category this year was called Winter Wonderland, and it was won by the Hancock County RSVP, and the Best Tree Topper award went to Casino Magic.

Another new category this year was Christmas on the Coast, with first place honors going to the Hancock County Women's Club and second place to Dunbar Village.

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thank the people of  
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vote and support in  
the general election.



Jay Fountain  
Mayoral Candidate  
City of Waveland

Pd. Pol. Adv.

3. Thank You

To all who participated in the  
Hancock County Library System's Eighth Annual  
HOLIDAY TREE GALA

Hancock County Republican Women

Hancock Medical Center

Hancock Women's Club

Hope Haven of Hancock County

Donna Hutchings

Kiln Public Library

Latter & Blum, Inc. Realtors

Joyce Z. Lee

Little Saint's Academy

Lumberyard Art Center

MS Gulf Coast Bonsai Society

North Bay Elementary

OLA SADD

Patients Choice

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Pet Haven Veterinary Hospital

Point Island Garden Club

Pretty Paws

Sav-A-Center

Sea Coast Echo

Wes Seymour

Southern Exposure

Statewide Insurance

St. Rose De Lima Choir

That Cute Little Shoppe

The Kid Company

The Peoples Bank

TOPS#233, Waveland

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Rachel Van Voorhis

Wal-Mart

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Etc. Etc.  
Lynda Cook  
Betsy Pincus  
Bay Craft,  
Alison Gorlin  
Jack & Diana Gorlin  
Kathy Pinn  
That Cute Little Shoppe

### JUDGES

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2A • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002

THE SEA COAST ECHO

Holiday Tree Gala winners named

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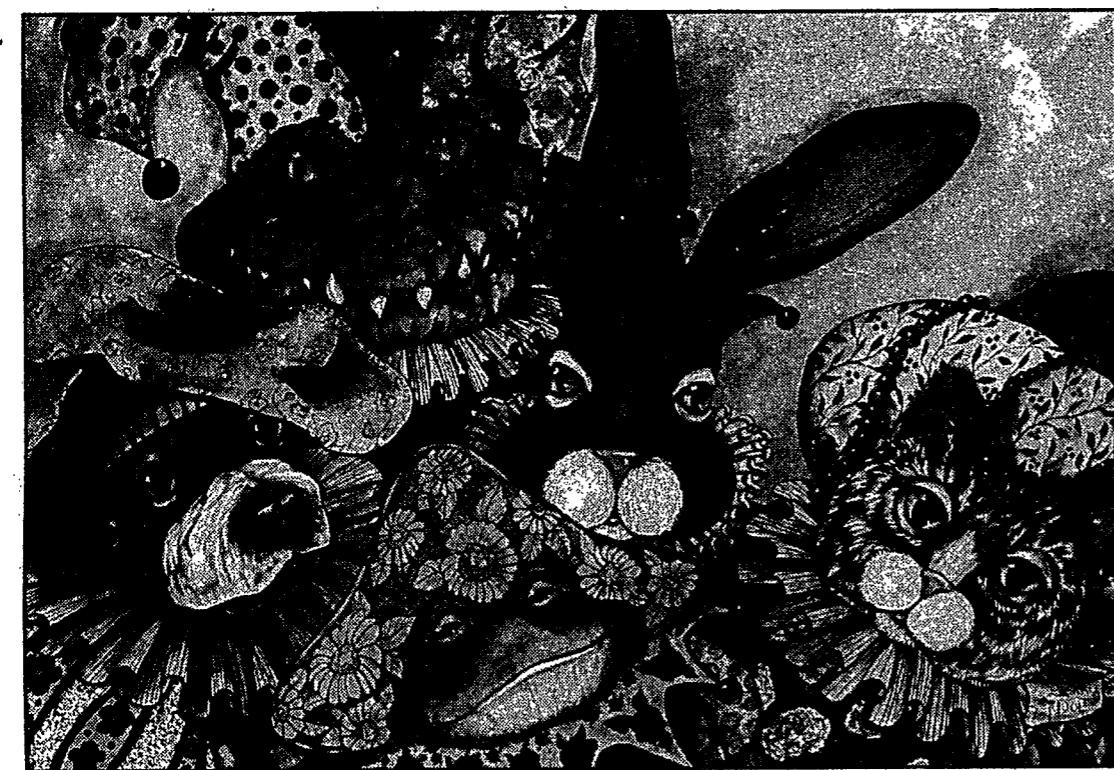
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The Designer Award was



"Party Animals" is the theme of Sherry Dole's reception at Loft Studios in Bay St. Louis on Second Saturday, this Saturday, Dec. 14. She will be on hand to close the 2002 season with works full of fantasy and fun. Dole says "art should make you smile and affect positive emotion." Enticing, whimsical animals dressed in their renaissance best are the focus of her work. Dole creates three-dimensional figures as well as paintings in watercolor and acrylic. She is a native of Hattiesburg. Her work has been seen in galleries across the country, as well as on the Gulf Coast. She has donated paintings to Hancock Medical Center's Foundation Fund, as well as other charities. For more on Second Saturday, see Page 1B.

## Festival of Lights is Saturday

### THE SEA COAST ECHO

Head down to Coleman Ave. in Waveland Saturday for the Annual Festival of Lights.

The celebration begins about 5 p.m. with caroling on the Avenue and a Christmas parade sponsored by the Waveland Civic Association. The parade features Santa Claus, floats with a holiday theme and lots of throws.

As a finale, Santa is dropped off to take his place

in front of city hall, where children will line up for a turn to sit on his lap and make their requests for Christmas. It is also a good opportunity for parents to snap a picture of little ones with Santa.

As the parade reaches its end, a concert on the steps of city hall will begin, featuring Christmas favorites performed by choirs from St. Clare Elementary, Waveland Elementary, Hancock Elementary and

the Word of Faith Church. Following the concert, the crowd will move to the beach for a fireworks display as a perfect ending to an enjoyable evening.

Also enjoy train rides, always a favorite with the kids, on the Waveland Fire Department Train which will run all evening. An old fashioned trolley also will run from 6 p.m. till 8 p.m. to take revelers on a tour of Christmas lights in nearby neighborhoods.

## D'head Baptist Church December events

### THE SEA COAST ECHO

Diamondhead Baptist Church announces December events:

Dec. 13, 7 p.m. and Dec. 15, 6 p.m., "A Glorious Christmas," a musical presentation of the Christmas story

Dec. 18 at 6 p.m., community-wide carol sing-a-long at the Twin Lakes Pavilion. Cocoa and cider will be served.

Dec. 22 at 10:30 a.m., groundbreaking celebration for the new Education Building and Fellowship Hall; Dec. 22 at 5 p.m., Christmas caroling hay

ride; Dec. 24 at 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion. For information, call 255-3348.

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### Christmas program

"Wise Men's Caribbean Christmas Cruise" is the title of this year's Christmas presentation of Bible Fellowship Church, 7030 Mengo Ave., Pass Christian on Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. A reception with refreshments will follow the Christmas program. Call 452-0038 for information.

THE SEA COAST ECHO

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## Hotel Reed -- empty now

a wall, and a couple of very silent upright pianos. A notable, old, curved wooden railing led the way upstairs.

Bay St. Louis city council members, the mayor, fire chief and chief building official spent about an hour roaming around the squeaky clean floors, peering into this doorway and that one, staring at antique wiring and an elderly sprinkler system. A couple of officials climbed up a narrow wooden ladder to the roof, and came back with bad, leaky news.

Some peered at sagging window framing, spider web-like exterior cracks in the old masonry. They all gasped at the beauty of the beachfront grounds, as the sun set. Huge live oaks held tons of Spanish moss overhead, like so many umbrellas creaking in a breeze.

Chief Building official Bill Carrigee predicted a "nightmare" if anyone tries to refurbish the building up to current code requirements. "It's just a big hole for somebody to throw their money into," said Carrigee. "You'd have to be a little bit on the crazy side" to try it.

The afternoon tour had been suggested by the building's owner, Ted Cain, who's been stymied in planning what to do with it. His

plans for a new hotel or nursing home have not met City Council approval, and have stirred concerns in the neighborhood.

Cain contends that breathing new life into the old building would be twice as costly as demolishing it.

The 1933 building has served both purposes — last summer the 89 elderly patients who resided there were moved by Cain to other facilities, and the doors padlocked. Some residents had lived there 10 or 15 years, said Cain. "Some didn't want to leave. And some didn't really believe we were moving."

Those of the 75 employees who wanted to keep their jobs were relocated, he said.

While the building has consistently passed its semi-annual fire safety inspections, those passing grades were possible only because the law "grandfathers" standards for older buildings. Now that the building's closed, those grandfathered standards no longer apply, said Fire Chief Robert Gavagnie.

"The minute they touch it, they'd have to meet (current) code requirements," the chief said.

Carrigee came up with a long, costly list of deficiencies: The roof leaks, there's

undoubtedly a massive amount of asbestos material that should be removed; the windows all would have to be removed, shored up anew and replaced; masonry would crumble in that process.

He said water, wind and salt air have ravaged the mortar, the columns sag, the galvanized pipes no longer are grounded. "We could get one heck of a permit fee," he joked, if the building were to be restored as a nursing home. Worse, he said, would be the cost of trying to re-create a hotel within the existing building. Accommodations for handicapped and hearing-impaired guests would be costly; floor space requirements and plumbing requirements are even more costly, he said.

Carrigee's own estimate was even higher than Cain's. The building official said it would take around \$14 million to re-do the old hotel. Cain estimated around \$5 million, saying he would not hire a general contractor for the job.

Carrigee said Cain would have a very hard time even getting a contractor to estimate the work, since there are so many unknowns at play. "No contractor is going to want to give you an estimate," he said. "Every time

you open up something, you'll find something else" to repair. "And you still wouldn't have a building as good as a new one."

City Council members seemed impressed by the gravity of the situation, but they have made no decision yet. Cain doesn't have to have city approval to demolish the structure, but local preservationists have objected to its loss.

Council president Doug Seal said perhaps there's a compromise that would retain the old, historic facade of the former hotel, retaining the character of a facility where weddings and balls were held some 70 years ago.

## Suspects -- robbery

ted the vehicle headed west on I-10 near the 2-mile marker. He pulled the vehicle over near the westbound weigh station," Garber's report said.

Garber continued, "Blake apprehended suspects Robert L. Eddins IV of Gulfport and Quarance Q. Claiborne of New Orleans, both age 17. An undisclosed amount of cash was recovered along with a 45-caliber

handgun apparently used in the robbery."

Both Eddins and Claiborne are charged with armed robbery and lodged in the Hancock County Criminal Justice Facility with a \$50,000 bond each and await a preliminary hearing in Hancock County Justice Court, Garber reported.

Criminal Investigator Rita Blaize-Watson is han-

dling the investigation. Also assisting with the arrests were Deputy Lt. Danny Gilkerson, Deputy Jason Chandler and Deputy Clark Ladner.

Garber also reported the department was contacting other area law enforcement agencies to see if there are tie-ins with possibly other armed robberies.

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NEW LOCATION 466-0425

Continued from Page 1A

## Waveland police dept. investigates robberies at Trace of Lace, Circle K

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS  
Publisher Emeritus

Waveland Police Department is investigating two armed robberies, one in the wee hours of Sunday and the other Sunday night, Police Chief Jimmy Varnell reports.

Varnell said, "Around 2:39 a.m. the department received a call from Circle K Food Store at the intersection of Highway 90 and Waveland Avenue, reporting an armed robbery.

"The clerk stated two black males entered the store with jackets covering their face. One displayed what appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun and asked the clerk for all the money. An undetermined amount of money was given to the two suspects and they left the store on foot. Both were described as being 5'8", one wearing a black fleece jacket with blue jeans, the other wearing a blue fleece jacket with white on front," Varnell said in his release.

Then Sunday evening a few minutes after 9 p.m., the police department received a call from The Trace of Lace, 623 Highway 90, reporting an armed robbery.

Varnell said, "A white female clerk stated two

males entered the store just after closing and demanded the money from the register. One was described as a light skinned black or Hispanic, 6 ft. tall, slim build, wearing a dark jacket and pants and a ski mask. The other was described as a white male, 5'7"-5'9" with a slim build wearing a light colored shirt with a tropical type print, dark pants and ski mask. Both suspects appeared to have semi-automatic handguns."

Both were reported as leaving the business on foot heading in the direction of Bay St. Louis.

Varnell continued, "After receiving the money, they told the clerk to lay flat on the ground and not move, or they would shoot her."

Investigator Jim Goss is heading the investigations with assistance from Investigator Howard Parker, Varnell said.

Varnell urges anyone with any information about the armed robbery of Circle K, or The Trace of Lace, to call the Waveland Police Department at 467-3669.

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Gulfport, Three Rivers Road, 228-865-9040

Biloxi, Eisenhower Drive, 228-388-8828  
Ocean Springs, Bienville Boulevard/Hwy 90, 228-875-6155

Pascagoula, Denny Avenue, 228-762-8555

Additional Locations: Edgewater Mall

Also in Wal-Mart: D'Iberville, Gulfport, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula, Wiggins

Authorized Retailers: B Communications - Gulfport & Wiggins, Burnham Drugs - Gautier & Vancleave, Pagers Plus, Radio Shack - Wiggins, White's Pharmacy - Wiggins, Wireless Express - Long Beach, Wireless Warehouse

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# OPINION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002

pg 4A



## Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas  
Publisher Emeritus

Christmas is fast approaching, and there are those who have not even started or completed their Christmas shopping.

Our local merchants offer a wide variety of gifts for folks of all ages, and it always pays to shop at home.

One gift shop some of you may not know is in existence is Hancock Medical Center's Gift shop operated by HMC's volunteers.

Sure, HMC's Gift shop has items for folks in the hospital, but at the same time there is a large selection of Christmas gifts for that someone special.

So, if you may have an item or two yet to select, you may want to visit the HMC Gift Shop located at the main entrance of the hospital. You may be surprised at their fine selection. The Volunteers in Pink will be happy to help you.

Waveland's new administration was sworn in for the next four years this past Friday.

By working together many things can be accomplished, and it is hoped there will be a team effort by Waveland's new administration.

Things which happened in the past have to be placed in the background, and efforts need to be focused on the current tasks ahead.

A team effort, for sure, will help Waveland move into the right direction.

Best of luck to the mayor and four aldermen, as you have been elected to serve the residents of the great City of Waveland for the next four years.

This evening from 5 to 7, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce December Business After Hours will be held at 10381 Highway 603.

Sponsors are Coast & Country Real Estate, Hart's Liquor and Absolutely Blinds & Shutters.

The location is 1.7 miles

from U.S. Highway 90 on the left side of Highway 603. There is parking in the rear of the building. If you have passed the Waveland/Kilm Cutoff Road, you have gone too far.

There will be great door prizes, refreshments and snacks.

The folks at Coast & County Real Estate, Hart's Liquor and Absolutely Blinds & Shutters will be awaiting to greet you at the Chamber's After Hours this evening.

On Saturday will be special times in Bay St. Louis and Waveland for the holiday season.

A very special Second Saturday in Old Town Bay St. Louis will take place on December 14.

This will mark the last Second Saturday Art Walk for 2002 and helping to celebrate the Christmas Season will be the First Baptist and Main Street United Methodist churches.

Main Street United Methodist from 2 to 5 p.m. will have light refreshments and Christmas handbells, solos and group singing.

At 5 p.m. First Baptist and Main Street choirs will present the musical, "Old-Fashioned Christmas."

The at 6 p.m. First Baptist invites you to view a small part of the town of Bethlehem, including the area adjacent to the stable.

All the shops in the Old Town area will be open, and Peoples Bank will sponsor the "Driskill Mountain Band" playing in the 200 block of Main Street.

So, there will be lots of activities in Old Town Bay St. Louis on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Waveland's merchants are gearing up for their annual big event, Festival of Lights on Saturday, December 14.

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. with caroling on Coleman Avenue and a

QUOTES--PAGE 5A



## Was our Trent just kidding around?

Well, Strom Thurmond has turned 100, the oldest guy to ever sit in the United States Senate.

My, it doesn't seem that long ago when I heard a South Carolina Democratic governor named J. Strom Thurmond make a fire-eating states' rights speech lathered with white supremacy here in Jackson's old City Auditorium.

It was May 10, 1948. A crowd of 2,000 like-minded rebellious Southern Democrats whooped and hollered. Billed as a Southwide rally of states' rights Democrats, it became the starting point of the historic Dixiecrat break with the National Democratic Party.

Though later years those connected with the Dixiecrat movement, including Thurmond, would contend it was about the constitutional question of states' rights and not about race, they conveniently forgot the racist rhetoric they used back then to rally the troops.

Thurmond in 1948: "I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, there's not enough troops in the Army to force the Southern people to break down segregation and admit the Nigra race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes and into our churches."

As history records, all-white delegations or parts of delegations from several Southern states, led by Mississippi's Gov. Fielding L. Wright, walked out of the National Democratic Convention at Philadelphia in July, 1948 when the convention, after a plea from young Minnesota Hubert Humphrey, adopted a pro-civil rights platform plank.

Thurmond's South Carolina delegation was not among them. Their reason, says South Carolina historian Jack Bass, was that either of two challenging delegations, one mostly black, was ready to move into the delegation's seats.

Less than a week after leaving Philadelphia, several thousand Mississippi-led

states' righters from a half dozen Dixie states convened in a Confederate flag-waving rump convention at Birmingham to nominate their own presidential ticket aimed at blocking the re-election of President Harry Truman.

The mild-mannered and gracious Wright had let two of us reporters from Jackson who covered his administration hang out in his hotel suite--something that would be unthinkable these days--and hear some of the horse trading that went on.

Practically every Southern state official on hand wanted Mississippi's Wright to head the ticket. But he modestly declined the top spot, though agreeing to become the vice-presidential nominee.

The ticket-makers next turned to Gov. Ben Laney of Arkansas for the top spot. But Laney, after listening to some of the bellicose rhetoric being hurled by speakers at the convention, packed his bags and went home to pledge himself for Harry Truman.

Thurmond, who had shown up at Birmingham to lend his backing to Wright and Laney, suddenly became the only available governor to take the top slot, and he promptly accepted it with gusto.

The Thurmond-Wright ticket, despite the best-laid and ballyhooed plans of the bolt architects to garner enough Southwide votes in the electoral college to block Truman's re-election, won only four Dixie states--Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and South Carolina--far short of jamming the electoral machinery.

More than a half-century later, it seems incomprehensible that the same Strom Thurmond who ran for president on the Dixiecrat ticket in 1948 as a thundering white supremacist, is the U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, who is now stepping down at age 100 as a patron saint of the Republican Party. Ol' Strom, they call him

in South Carolina, in the early 1960s switched to the GOP. More importantly, he is identified as the key player in Richard Nixon's 1968 "Southern strategy," that eventually lured most of the once-solidly Democratic South into the GOP column.

Long ago, Thurmond set about to repair his former segregationist image by becoming the first member of the South Carolina delegation in Congress to hire a black staffer and later the first Deep South senator to nominate a black for the federal bench.

As several authors have written in their assessments of Thurmond's rather phenomenal career, rather than make an admission or apology to blacks for his past sins, Ol' Strom simply reshaped his political outlook to conform to the realities of a new electorate in his state.

Yet Thurmond, unlike

Democrat Fritz Hollings, his longtime Senate colleague from South Carolina, never went out to see first hand and smell the hovels of black poverty, of which there are many in the Palmetto state whose African-American population percentage is second only to Mississippi's.

Still, the most uncouth remark to come out of the occasion of Strom's 100th birthday party last week on Capitol Hill came from Mississippi's own Republican Sen. Trent Lott, soon to be the Senate Majority leader.

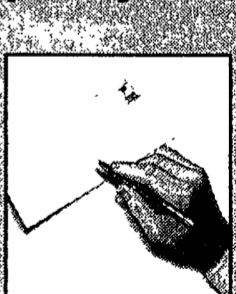
Boasting that when Strom Thurmond ran for president in 1948, "We (Mississippi) voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we (the U.S.) wouldn't have had all these problems over all the years,

MINOR--PAGE 5A

## Letters to the Editor

### Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



## Keep up the great work, Hancock Medical Center

Dear Editor,  
I don't know how many of us who live here in Hancock County fully realize what a gem of a hospital we have in the Hancock Medical Center.

I have to admit that I did not--until my week-long stay there recently.

From the time I arrived at the Emergency Room on Thanksgiving morning, to the time I was discharged one week later, I experienced nothing but cheerful smiles, efficient service, and effective treatment.

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Seeing so many people so happy in their work and so agreeable and helpful to one another really made me feel great. There wasn't an "attitude" in the lot. Even the food was superior, both delicious and hot.

Thanks y'all; keep up the great work!

Bro. Donnan Berry, SC  
Bay St. Louis

THE SEA

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Moments

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**The Sea Coast Echo**

USPS 487-100

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## Waveland -- board under fire

Moments after it began, Mayor John "Tommy" Longo announced that the meeting would go into recess, and many items on the night's agenda would be tabled until the board could discuss them at length in a workshop, scheduled for yesterday evening, prompting criticism from all three former candidates.

"This meeting could be adjourned tonight -- this is a game," Trapani said.

Both Longo and new Ward 1 Alderman Keith Mitchell said that the new board needed a little more time to review some of the agenda items in order to

make more well-informed decisions.

When the board voted to table discussion on the reappointment of current city employees Lisa Planchard, Raquel Lafontaine and Renee Lick, Coleman and Cross both lambasted the mayor for the delay.

Coleman pointedly asked Longo why he couldn't announce his decision immediately, since it was his to make without requiring input from the aldermen.

When he was elected for his first term, Longo said, "When I came in, I met with

everybody and I said 'Everybody's staying.' This time, I have decided that I want to thoroughly research and discuss it with the board ... to include them in the decisions that I'm making."

Coleman then accused the board of conducting an illegal, closed-door meeting thirty minutes before the regular meeting began Tuesday.

Mitchell said the board members were not trying to have a meeting, but were each trying to get the information and materials they needed for the scheduled meeting.

"Now, is it your desire that as soon as I see two or more of my brethren (aldermen) or the mayor, that I should immediately walk away," Mitchell asked Coleman.

"Yes, I do expect that," she said.

"There's no honesty here," Cross said. "This is nonsense."

One member of the audience rallied to the board's defense, saying the mayor and new aldermen were just trying to do what the people of Waveland wanted: "It sounds like they're working together."

"They're not interested in

community-building in the city," Longo said of the critics on Friday. "They're just here to antagonize and to get negative headlines."

"I think we have a tremendous board here, if they're given the opportunity, and not to even give 'em the opportunity to get their feet on the ground, that's just sad."

Longo said there was no illegal meeting. "We didn't have a meeting upstairs. They (the board members) were just upstairs looking for their packets and information, and I was just up there working."

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## Minor

Continued from Page 4A

either." Was our Trent just kidding? That's how one right-wing talking head on TV dusted off the episode.

Mississippi voted 85 percent for Dixiecrat Thurmond in 1948 and only 15 percent for President Truman. However, not one black Mississippian was able to vote in that election. Zilch. Zero.

Is such a record of inviolate discrimination against the African-American population of Mississippi (then higher percentage-wise than it is now) anything to kid about?

Lets don't worry about whether or not Strom Thurmond apologized to the black citizens of South Carolina, lets worry about Trent Lott apologizing to the black (and white as well) citizens of Mississippi.

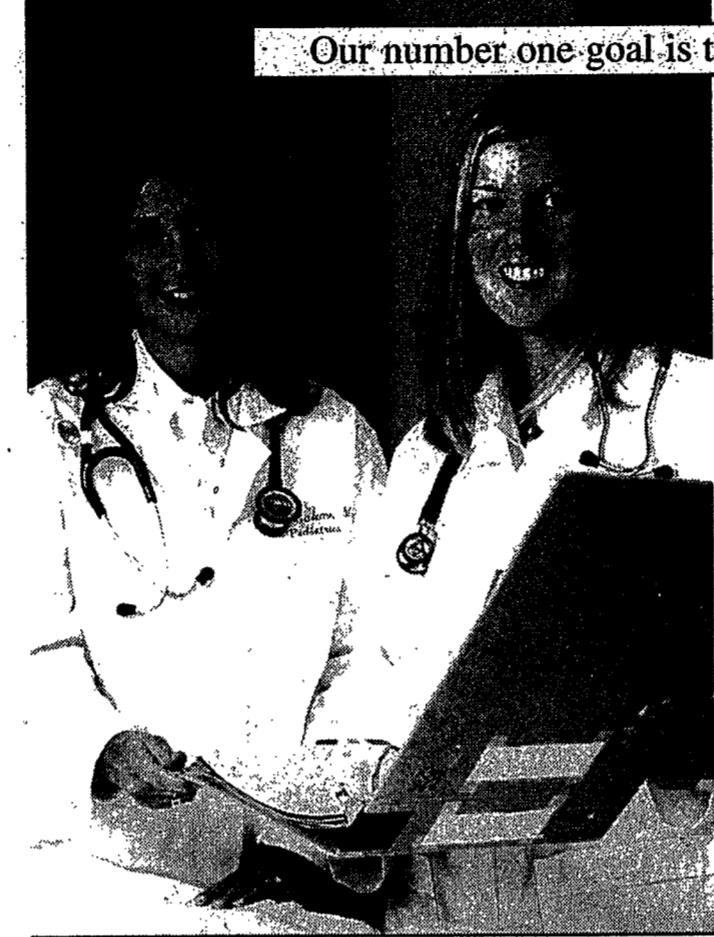
Strom is history. But Trent is still very much a

prime-time actor on the national stage and carries a heavier burden to do penance for insouciant remarks.

That wasn't the only Trent transgression of the past week. He also violated a long-standing courtesy code of the United States Senate that one member will not invade another state to campaign against a fellow senator.

Lott joined the other Republican heavyweights, including George Bush, who swooped into Louisiana in an all-out drive to unseat Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu.

However, the moderate Landrieu whipped the whole army of GOP invaders, Lott included. In the least, Trent needn't expect an invitation to next year's Louisiana Mardi Gras ball in Washington.



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## Crash

Continued from Page 1A

The juvenile, Shane Petticrew, Garber said was in critical condition.

Investigator John Luther, who is handling the investigation said, "Initial investigation has revealed the vehicle was traveling east on Chester Lee Road, left from the right shoulder of the road. The driver tried to correct the vehicle then exited the left shoulder. The initial impact struck a tree with the vehicle's rear end, then spun into other trees."

"Apparently excessive speed caused the accident, and I do not believe alcohol was a factor," Luther reported.

Luther said late Monday

his investigation was continuing. He is also the Sheriff Department's accident reconstruction officer.

Petticrew was transported to Garden Park Hospital, stabilized, and later transferred to the University of Alabama's Medical Center in Mobile, according to Luther.

Others responding to the scene were Deputy Lt. Matt Sekinger, Deputy Chris Orey, American Medical Response and Leetown's Volunteer Fire Department.

The vehicle, a 1997 Mitsubishi Eclipse, was totaled. Investigator Andre Fizer is assisting in the accident's investigation.

## Quotes

Continued from Page 1A

Christmas parade sponsored by the Waveland Civic Association. The big feature of the parade will be Santa Claus, along with floats with a holiday theme and many throws. Santa will make his annual stop at City Hall and take the requests of youngsters.

A concert will be staged on the City Hall steps with Christmas favorites performed by choirs from St. Clare Elementary, Waveland Elementary, Hancock Elementary and the Word of Faith Church.

Later in the evening there will be a fireworks display on the beach.

Several merchants along Coleman Avenue will be providing refreshments as a contribution by the Coleman Avenue Coalition.

In addition to the above, there will be trolley rides from Coleman to visit Christmas Card and Door lanes. The Waveland Fire Department will also have its Department Train in operation. So, it will be a big evening in Waveland, too, on Saturday.

## Republican group meets

The Republican Executive Committee's December meeting will be tonight, at 6:30 p.m., December 12, at the Bay Library Meeting Room on Ulman Street. Speakers: state GOP State Vice Chairperson and 4th

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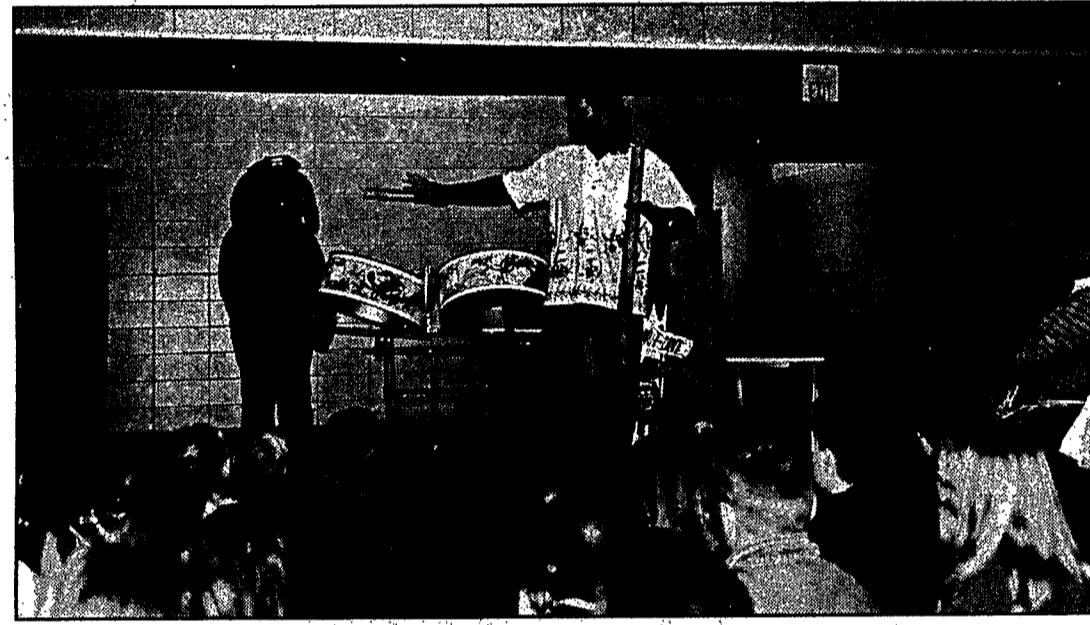
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## Bay High Tiger Pride marching band, dance team display winning trophies



Pictured, back row from left, Natalie Skinner, dance team director; Geneva Mitchell, guard captain; Matthew Delft, co-drum captain; Lindsey Necaise, head drum major; Amy Clark, assistant drum major; Robert Walley, drum captain; Tara Atwell, co-guard captain; and Catchie Crider, band director; seated, Elysha Tompson, dance captain, Marissa Turcotte and co-dance captain, Ericka Stieber.

## CBM students receive free books



Local musician and steel drum player Coconut Dave Waugh entertained students at Charles B. Murphy Elementary in Pearlington as Clifford the Big Red Dog danced to the Caribbean-style sounds during the first of three Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) book distributions for this school year. Earlier in the day during the themed "Books are a Treasure" distribution, each student received one take-home book compliments of RIF and a partnership with Boeing Rocketdyne Propulsion & Power located at Stennis Space Center.

## Local students among fall grads at Miss. State to graduate Dec. 13

More than 1,400 Mississippi State students are candidates for degrees at the conclusion of the 2002 fall semester.

Graduates, including those from the August summer term who choose to return, will receive diplomas Dec. 13 in ceremonies beginning at 10 a.m. in Humphrey Coliseum.

Roy H. Ruby, longtime MSU administrator, will deliver the commencement address. Vice President for student affairs since 1985, he also has been serving as dean of the College of

Education since last year. He will continue as education dean once a new leader for the Division of Student Affairs is named.

Graduating with honors are bachelor's-degree students who have exceptional scholastic averages and at least half their total required course hours earned at MSU.

Their levels of recognition and the minimum required averages for each, based on a 4.0 scale, include: summa cum laude, 3.80; magna cum laude, 3.60; and cum laude, 3.40.

The academic honors are recorded on the graduates' diplomas and permanent records, as well as in the commencement program.

Local degree candidates include:

Matthew J. Allen of Waveland, bachelor of arts degree from the College of Arts & Sciences

Kelli L. Brown of Hancock County, bachelor of science degree from the College of Engineering

Rhonda S. Fetters of Hancock County, master of science degree from the College of Engineering

## Hancock students enlist in National Guard

Terri Scully of Bay St. Louis and Jonathan Smith of Kiln have enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Scully, a senior at Hancock High School, joined the 114th Area Support Group in Hattiesburg, according to her recruiter, Sergeant First Class David Cooper. She will serve as an administrative specialist and will receive a \$3,000 enlistment bonus.

Smith, a senior at Hancock High School, joined Detachment 1, Company B 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry in Bay St. Louis, according to his

recruiter, Sergeant First Class David Cooper. He will serve as a mechanized infantryman and will receive a \$3,000 enlistment bonus and a \$3,000 critical skill bonus.

As members of the Guard, Scully and Smith are eligible to receive the Montgomery GI Bill, which pays up to \$476 a month while attending college as a full-time student.

They can also receive assistance from the State Education Assistance Program, which pays up to \$1,000 a semester to a four-year college, or \$500 a semes-

ter to a two-year college. Scully will attend basic training and will attend advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

The daughter of Mary Kennerson of Bay St. Louis, she plans to attend Louisiana State University. She is employed at High Tide Seafood Restaurant.

Smith will attend basic training and will attend advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga.

The son of Carl Smith and Sherry Wills of Kiln, he plans to attend Pearl River Community College.

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The Bay High School Tiger Pride Marching Band earned All Superior ratings at both State Band Marching Festival and at The Gold Medal Marching Band Competition at Perkinston Community College.

The Bay-High Steppers Dance Team won Best Overall Dance Team at the Perkinston festival.

The Tiger Pride Concert Band will perform its annual Christmas concert Monday, Dec. 16 in the Robert V. Magee Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is two, non-perishable food items to be donated to the Bay St. Louis Food Pantry.

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# Unwanted house guest arrives Friday

**"The Nerd"**  
will drop in  
Dec. 13-15 at  
Bay St. Louis  
Little Theatre

BY SHANNON JENKINS

Staff Writer

Unwanted house guests tend to pop up from time to time. Some leave easily; others seem to stay forever.

Local performer Arthur Bailey Jr. will portray such a house guest who is not easily ushered back over the threshold in Bay St. Louis Little Theatre's production of "The Nerd."

This comedy by Larry Shue pits the nerdy Rick Steadman against rising architect Willum Cubbert, who Rick saved in Vietnam. Willum, played by Owen Sullivan, promised to do anything for the man who saved his life, even though they never really met.

Now, Rick has taken Willum up on his offer and has pushed every one of his buttons. With the aid of his sophisticated friends, Willum schemes to remove Rick out of his life as delicately as possible.

"My character can't take a hint," Bailey said. "He gets on everyone's nerves because he's loud, obnoxious and inconsiderate."

Bailey said he fashioned his voice after some of Dan Aykroyd's characters from Saturday Night Live.

"It's a very Chicago accent mixed with some Italian and New Orleans," he said.

As far as his mindset for the character, Bailey said he developed that after an old roommate he once had who could be a bit odd at times.

"A lot of the cast members probably want to strangle me after the show because of my character," he said.

Director Marty Fitzgerald, however, wanted



The cast of "The Nerd" includes (from left, standing) Zach Hemphill, Owen Sullivan, LaDonna Darrah, Anna Hall, Kaitlin Collins, Scott Darrah and Arthur Bailey Jr. (seated).

Bailey for the role because "he thought I could pull off the character," Bailey said.

This Bay St. Louis resident, who has been involved in theater since the second grade, said this was his first lead character. Bailey took smaller parts in shows like "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "A

humor in the play.

If not, he said they will probably see a few people they know represented in the show like the business man, the humble school teacher, the smart aleck and the spoiled brat.

Owen Sullivan said he even sees a little of himself in Willum's character.

## BSLLT presents "The Nerd"

Admission: \$12 for adults, \$7 for students

(228) 467-2587

Street Car Named Desire" and "South Pacific."

As one of the leads, Bailey really has the opportunity to do what he likes most — make people laugh.

"I love the humor in this play," he said. "While reading through the script, we were laughing so hard we were crying."

Bailey said he hopes the audience will also see the

"I can identify with him," said the 19-year-old. "He's an average, down-to-earth guy."

Sullivan, however, said he would handle an unwanted house guest like Rick a bit differently.

"My character doesn't have much of a backbone," he said. "He feels he owes his life to the Nerd. He takes far too much than he

should."

The Diamondhead native said Willum eventually explodes, and "I wouldn't allow myself to do that."

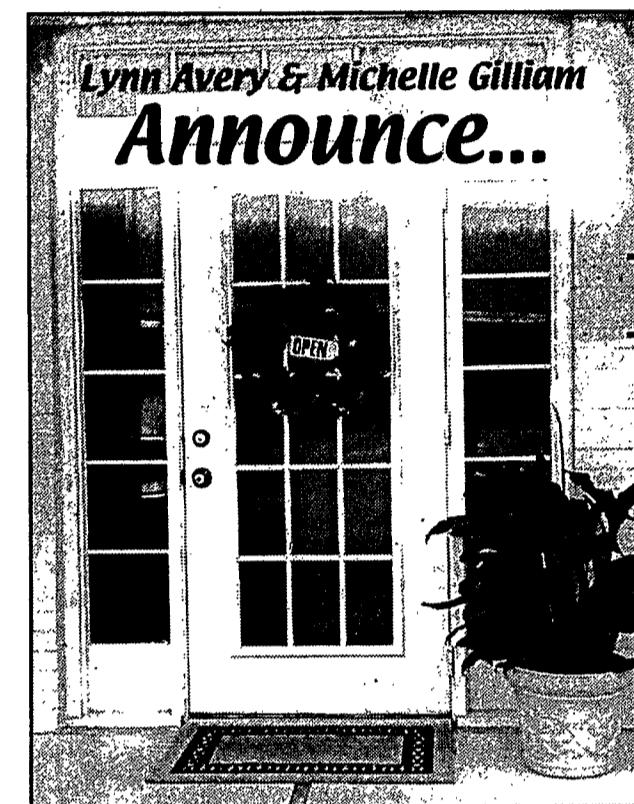
Although he feels at home in his character, he happened upon the role by chance. Sullivan, whose first show was "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," stopped by the theater to drop off his "Forum" script and was asked to read for the part. He committed himself to the role that night.

"I was planning to take a break," he said. "But, I'm glad I did it."

"The Nerd" will run Dec. 13-15 with show times at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for students 17 and below. Season tickets for this and the rest of the 2002-2003 season are available.

Call the theater for reservations at 467-2587. Tickets will be available at the door on the night of the show. For more information visit [www.bsllt.com](http://www.bsllt.com).



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The Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA), is a tuition-free residential school that will provide advanced programs of study in music, theatre, visual arts, dance, literary arts and media arts for artistically gifted and talented 11th and 12th grade students from districts across the state.

"Our mission is to provide a challenging arts education for artistically gifted Mississippi students in a residential learning environment that promotes honor, integrity, service, and life-long learning," said Dr. Vicki Bodenhamer, executive director of MSA.

The Mississippi School of the Arts is located on the historic Whitworth College Campus in Brookhaven. Designated as a Mississippi Landmark, the campus is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

MSA is now accepting applications for its first class of juniors to be enrolled in the fall of 2003. Students who meet the application criteria will apply during their sophomore year in high school to be admitted as juniors to

### Mississippi School of Arts

**Application Deadline**  
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MSA will accept residential and commuting students. The admissions process consists of two phases. In Phase One, students will be assessed through a review of application forms and a submitted portfolio.

Those students selected

to proceed through Phase Two will be invited to MSA for an on-site audition, written assessment, and interview.

To ensure that students are evaluated fairly regardless of their local opportunities in arts education, the admissions process is designed to assess artistic aptitude as well as artistic achievement. The deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 14.

During the first three years, MSA will offer programs of study in theatre, visual arts, and vocal music. As campus facilities are completed, the visual and performing arts program will be expanded to include dance and instrumental music, as well as programs in media arts and literary arts.

For additional information or to receive an application packet, call MSA at (601) 823-9256 or toll free at 1-866-MSARTS1 (1-866-672-7871).

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**#1 Man!**

**Happy Birthday Mike!**

**Love,**  
**Micki, Michael, Michelle,**  
**Mark, Melanie & Kelan**

## Obituaries

**CARLOS ARNOLD SR.**  
**DORIS CARLISLE**  
**WHITNEY DAVIS**  
**S U M M E R**  
**DULWORTH**  
**MILFRED FELDER**  
**HELEN HOLZHAUSER**  
**JOHN HOWARD SR.**  
**H. MONTALBANO**  
**SAMUEL MYERS SR.**  
**HUBERT RENFRO JR.**  
**ALTRA SAUCIER**  
**MARY G. SMITH**  
**ARRIE WINTERS**  
**WINIFRED WRAY**



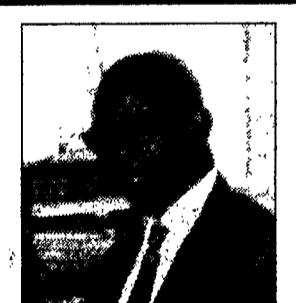
**CARLOS ARNOLD SR.**  
 Carlos Anthony Arnold, Sr., 66, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, December 6, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Arnold was a native and lifelong resident of Bay St. Louis and was a member of St. Clare Catholic Church, Waveland. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps serving during the Korea War. He was a charter member of the Jaycees, American Legion Post #139, and 40&8 Voiture #432, had 50 years of service with the Boy Scouts of America and Knights of Columbus Council #1522, all of Bay St. Louis. He was past president of the Waveland Civic Association and charter member of the Bay-Waveland Elks and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Waveland. He retired from Stennis Space Center after 20 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl A. and Viola M. Dubuisson Arnold; a brother, Dennis J. Arnold; and a grandson, Bobby L. Arnold.

Survivors include his wife, Gayle Drury Arnold of Bay St. Louis; five sons, C. A. "Buddy" Arnold, Jr. and wife Laurie of Pascagoula; Patrick J. Arnold, Robert E. Arnold, Nicholas E. Arnold and Matthew R. Arnold, all of Bay St. Louis; six daughters, Sharon A. Shelton of Moss Point, Mary Anne A. and husband Val E. Grimes, Sr. of Helena, Miss., Lisa A. and husband Greg Conn of Bay St. Louis, Kathleen A. and husband Lewis Mitchell of Hurley, Miss., Barbara A. and husband Gary Froestad of Summerville, S.C. and Donna A. Hess of Bay St. Louis; sisters Phyllis M. Arnold of New Orleans and Sheila A. Rines of Indianapolis, Ind.; a brother, Alfred L. Arnold of Waveland; 26 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Wednesday at St. Clare Catholic Church in



**In Memoriam**  
**In Loving Memory**  
**of**  
**REGINALD ROBINSON**  
**Dec. 12, 1910-Dec. 16, 1995**

When one or the other must leave, one or the other must stay.

One or the other must give, that is forever the way. That is the vow that was sworn, faithful until death do us part.

Braving what had to be borne, hiding the ache in our heart.

Happy Birthday.  
 We all love you.

Sadly missed by  
 Wife Bernice, Children,  
 Grandchildren,  
 Great-grandchildren  
 and all your family.

Waveland followed by celebration of a Mass of Christian Burial and interment at St. Mary Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis was in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers memorials to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 307 Coleman Ave., Waveland, MS 39576.

### DORIS CARLISLE

Doris King Carlisle, 83, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, Dec. 6, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Carlisle was a native of Lockhart and was a resident of Heidelberg. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Clara Till King; her father, James E. King Sr.; and a son, Robert M. "Bob" Carlisle.

Survivors include a son, Jim W. Carlisle; a daughter, Mary Anne Blanchette of Bay St. Louis; two brothers, James E. King Jr. of Heidelberg and Julius W. King of Laurel; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Friday at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Heidelberg. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Heidelberg Baptist Church, with burial in Heidelberg Cemetery.

The family prefers memorials to the building fund of First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis, 151 Main St., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520.

### WHITNEY DAVIS

Whitney Lee Davis, 20, of Kiln, died Saturday, Dec. 7, 2002, in Hancock County.

Mr. Davis was in the construction business.

Survivors include a long-time companion, Andriea Hartshorn; his parents, Mike and Susie Davis, all of Kiln; and three brothers, Gene Sones and Doug Sones, both of Columbia, and Chris Davis of Kiln.

Visitation was Tuesday evening at White Funeral Home in Poplarville. Services were conducted Wednesday at the funeral home chapel, with burial in Smith Cemetery in Poplarville.

### S U M M E R

### DULWORTH

Summer Louise Dulworth, infant daughter of Dawn Marie Dulworth, Bay St. Louis, died Saturday, Dec. 8, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Summer was a native of Bay St. Louis.

Survivors include her mother; two brothers, Mark A. and Nathan A. Dulworth; a sister, Lois Ann Dulworth; and grandparents, Ellen Dulworth and Curtis and Mary Ray Sr., all of Bay St. Louis.

A graveside service was conducted Wednesday at Garden of Memory Cemetery in Bay St. Louis, directed by Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis.

### MILFRED FELDER

Milfred Joseph Felder, 74, of Bay St. Louis, died Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2002 in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Felder was a native of New Orleans and a resident of Bay St. Louis for the past 13 years. He was a retired member of the LBEW Local 130, a member of the American Legion Post 139

and VFW Post 3253 and was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

He was the husband of Melba Thompson Felder, father of Deborah Felder, Plaeger, Donna Felder Geneva and Dale Felder Beler; father-in-law of George Plaeger, Michael Geneva and Kenneth Beler; and son of the late Josephine Petermann Felder and Albert Felder. Survivors include nine grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated today, Dec. 12 at noon at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home Chapel, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd. (in Metairie Cemetery). Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow in All Saints Mausoleum.

### H E L E N HOLZHAUSER

Helen Augusta Holzhauser, 85, of Bay St. Louis, died Saturday, Dec. 7, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Holzhauser was a native of New Orleans and had been a resident of Bay St. Louis since 1947. She was a member of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roland George Felix Holzhauser; a son, John Holzhauser; her parents, John and Cecile Colson Thomas; a brother, Albert Thomas; and two sisters, Valerie Marengo and Eloise McHughes.

Survivors include two daughters, Margaret Lee and Melody Fricke, both of Bay St. Louis; a son, Thomas Holzhauser of Waveland; a sister, Margaret Gavigne of Bay St. Louis; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

All services will be private. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is handling arrangements.

The family prefers memorials to St. Jude's Children Research, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

### JOHN HOWARD SR.

John Smith Howard Sr.,

age 78, of Long Beach, died Saturday, December 7, 2002, in Long Beach.

He was a native of Shilder, Oklahoma, had been a resident of New Orleans for over 45 years before retiring to Long Beach in 1989. Mr. Howard joined the U.S. Navy during World War II and served 30 months on the USS Mississippi.

He was also a lifetime member of Long Beach VFW Post #3937, Gulfport DAV post. Mr. Howard was also a member of the Long Beach Cooties Pup Tent #10 for many years and the American Legion for 55 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Enos Quinn Howard and Ethel Christian Howard.

His survivors include his wife of 56 years, Norma Kilday Howard of Long Beach; sister, Helen Howard Wright of Durant, Oklahoma; three sons, John Smith Howard Jr. of Diamondhead, James Kilday Howard of Metairie, Louisiana, and Enos Quinn Howard of Long Beach; two daughters, J. Christine Labat of Long Beach and Mary Sue Lowery of Newport News, Virginia; ten

granddaughters, two grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Monday at the Riemann Funeral Home Chapel in Long Beach. Services were conducted Tuesday at Leitz-Egan Funeral Home, Veterans Blvd., New Orleans with visitation two hours before. Burial followed in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Riemann Funeral Home in Long Beach was in charge of local arrangements.

The family prefers contributions to Memorial Hospital Hospice Program.

### H. MONTALBANO

Hattie Lavendera Montalbano, 87, of Terrytown, La., died Monday, December 9, 2002, in Jefferson, LA.

Mrs. Montalbano was a native of Kiln and a former resident of New Orleans for 65 years. She was a resident of Terrytown, La. for four years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Vincent Montalbano; parents, Hattie Faye and Frank Lavendera; and a son, Vincent J. Montalbano.

Survivors include two sons, Dominick Montalbano and Frank Montalbano; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be at St. Bernard Memorial Funeral Home, 701 W. Virtue St., Chalmette today from 8 until 9 a.m. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery at Rotten Bayou in Hancock County.

Riemann Funeral Home, 25th Avenue in Gulfport, is in charge of local arrangements.

### SAMUEL MYERS SR.

Samuel Jack Myers Sr., 80, of Markham, Texas, died Saturday, Dec. 7, 2002, in Markham.

Mr. Myers was a native of Pass Christian and was a member of First Baptist Church of Markham. He had been a resident of Markham since 1973 and was a former longtime resident of Gulfport. He retired in 1984 from Southwestern Bell Telephone with 39 years of service. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II and was a life member of the VFW Post 2438 of Bay City, Texas.

He was preceded in death by a brother, David Myers; and his stepfather, "C.J." Powell.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Bankhead Myers of Markham; a daughter, Connie of Deer Park, Texas; two sons, Samuel J. Myers Jr. of Gulfport and Kevin Drew Myers of Yuma, Ariz.; and four grandchildren.

Services were conducted Tuesday at Taylor Bros. Funeral Home in Bay City, with burial in Hawley Cemetery.

The family prefers memorials to Houston Hospice, 1102 North Mechanic, El Campo, TX 77437.

### HUBERT RENFRO JR.

Hubert Earl "Bud" Renfro Jr., 59, of Bay St. Louis, died Monday, Dec. 9, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Renfro was a native of Vicksburg and a resident of Bay St. Louis.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hubert Earl Renfro Sr.

Survivors include his mother, Addie Johnson of

Vicksburg; five sons, Ronnie Lynch of Slidell, La., Justin and Dustin Renfro of Pensacola, Fla., Hubert McCall of Bay St. Louis, John Renfro of Waveland; five daughters, Kim Cintron and Stephanie Morantine, both of Pensacola, Fla., Tiffany Borgmeyer of Milton, Fla., Liz Beach of Kiln, Kristy Renfro of Pensacola; two sisters, Martha Harper of Picayune, Rubie Pettway of Bay St. Louis; three brothers, Earl Renfro of Excel, Ala. David and Tim Johnson of Vicksburg; and 13 grandchildren.

Survivors include four sons, Emile Smith and Norman Smith, both of Bay St. Louis, Ernest Smith and Lewis Smith, both of New Orleans; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. today at First Missionary Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the church, with burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

J.T. Hall Funeral Home in Gulfport is in charge of arrangements.

and Matilia Gillium; her husband, Julius Smith; and a brother, Joseph Gillium.

Survivors include four sons, Emile Smith and Norman Smith, both of Bay St. Louis, Ernest Smith and Lewis Smith, both of New Orleans; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. today at First Missionary Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the church, with burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

J.T. Hall Funeral Home in Gulfport is in charge of arrangements.

### ARRIE WINTERS

Arrie Winters, age unavailable, of Pass Christian, died Monday, Dec. 9, 2002, in Pass Christian.

Services are pending at J.T. Hall Funeral Home in Gulfport.

### WINIFRED WRAY

Winifred Z. Wray, 92, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., died Saturday, Dec. 7, 2002.

Ms. Wray was a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Artist Workshop. She was a volunteer at the Brannon Memorial Library.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sidney Saucier; father and mother, Henry L. Washington Sr. and Mary Jones; a brother, Henry L. Washington Jr.; and a sister, Marva Jones Spencer.

Survivors include two sons, William Vontoure of Pass Christian, Robert Vontoure of Bay St. Louis; 13 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Rose Delima Catholic Church. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the church, with burial in St. Mary Cemetery in Bay St. Louis. Baylous Funeral Home in Picayune is in charge of arrangements.

### MARY G. SMITH

Mary G. Smith, 96, of Bay St. Louis, died Thursday, Dec. 5, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Smith was a native of New Orleans and was a homemaker. She volunteered for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and was a member of the RSVP Chorus. She was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis, where she served as an usher.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Buddy

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# BUSINESS NEWS



## Community leaders

Several local citizens were featured at the Gulf Coast Chamber's Summit for Success Wednesday in Biloxi where the Sun Herald newspaper honored South Mississippi community leaders. Nominees included Ellis Cuevas, left, publisher emeritus of the Sea Coast Echo and Colleen Reed, owner of Da Beach House; Top 10 Community Leaders winners included Leo Seal, Jr., president and CEO of Hancock Holding Company and chairman of Hancock Bank of Mississippi; and Lucimarian Roberts, retired social worker, college counselor and teacher; Top Ten Business Leaders Under 40 winners included John P. Baxter, manager Hancock Bank's Bay 90 branch, Ron Barns, manager of marketing and member services, Coast Electric Power Association; and Jody Comprettta, owner of Patients Choice. (Staff photo by Randy Ponder)

## Expansion approved at Isle of Capri

Final approval was issued last week allowing the Isle of Capri, Biloxi to begin expansion of its property.

The expansion will occur in two phases, with phase one being the construction of a 1,100 car-parking garage that will be capable of supporting a future 500-room hotel.

Phase two will be a 400-room luxury hotel, built directly to the north of the existing hotel tower. Additional restaurants, entertainment facility, and spa will compliment the expansion.

Final approvals for the project have been accomplished through the hard work and cooperation of Secretary of State, Eric Clark, Mayor A.J. Holloway and his administration, Biloxi City Council, IHL Board and the Biloxi Port Commission.

With final approval in place, the Isle of Capri Casino Resort looks forward to beginning the \$80 million expansion in Biloxi immediately," said Bill Kilduff, vice president and general manager of the Biloxi property.

The Isle of Capri Casino Resort in Biloxi, the South's first casino, opened its doors in Biloxi on August 1, 1992. The resort is owned and

operated by Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

The project is scheduled to begin in January 2003 and be completed in approximately 28 months.

### Parking Garage

Construction of a new 1,116 car-parking garage is to be located on the East side of the existing casino barge.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early January.

The garage will connect directly into the second floor of the casino barge.

The garage will have 6 levels with 1,116 parking spaces.

It will take approximately 10 months to complete the garage.

During this time the main entrance driveway will be reconfigured.

### Hotel Tower

The new 12-story hotel tower on top of a 3-story

## Northrop Grumman closes TRW merger

Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE: NOC) announced Wednesday that the merger of a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman with and into TRW Inc. was completed following the approvals of the stockholders of Northrop Grumman and TRW at special meetings of stockholders held yesterday. TRW will survive the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman.

As previously announced, based on the exchange ratio for the merger, TRW shareholders will receive 0.5357 shares of Northrop Grumman common stock for each share of TRW common stock, with cash paid in lieu of any fractional share of Northrop Grumman stock which otherwise would be issued to the TRW shareholders.

Northrop Grumman Corporation is a \$17 billion, global defense company with its worldwide headquarters in Los Angeles. Northrop Grumman provides technologically advanced, innovative prod-

ucts, services and solutions in defense electronics, systems integration, information technology and nuclear and non-nuclear shipbuilding and systems. With nearly 96,000 employees and operations in 44 states and 25 countries, Northrop Grumman serves U.S. and international military, government and commercial customers.

### New air service

New scheduled air service from Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., to Mississippi's Gulf Coast will begin Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003.

The semi-weekly flights will each carry up to 168 passengers and arrive on the Coast from Minneapolis-St. Paul every Thursday and Sunday on Sun Country Airlines' Boeing 737-800.

The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Authority and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau worked with Hobbit Travel and Sun Country Airlines to launch the winter escape program, which will operate until April 6, 2003.

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- Possible expanded pool area overlooking Deer Island and the Gulf of Mexico
- New expanded health club/spa

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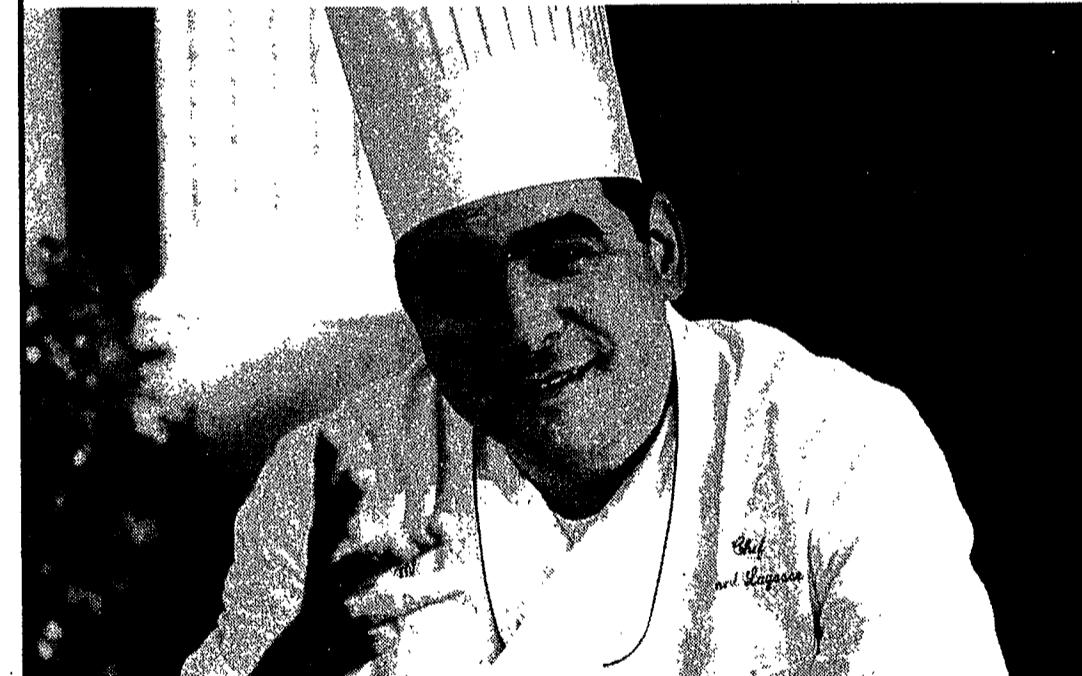
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### In Memoriam In Loving Memory of

**REGINALD ROBINSON**  
Dec. 12, 1910-Dec. 16, 1995

When one or the other must leave, one or the other must stay. One or the other must give, that is forever the way. That is the vow that was sworn, faithful until death do us part. Braving what had to be borne, hiding the ache in our heart. Happy Birthday. We all love you.

Sadly missed by  
Wife Bernice, Children,  
Grandchildren,  
Great-grandchildren  
and all your family.

## The Reason for the Season



Coast Youth Ballet members practice their liturgical dance routine, which will be performed at churches all over the Coast during the holidays.

Coast Youth Ballet students worship through dance

BY GEOFF BELCHER  
News Editor

Some people make a joyful noise to celebrate their relationships to God — these folks make joyful movements.

For the fifth year in a row, young dancers from the Coast Youth Ballet Academy are touring churches all across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, sharing their love of God with the masses. "It's classical ballet and liturgical dance merged together," according to CYBA director Sharon Loiacano. "These are classically-trained dancers who are doing liturgical dance, so it's pretty extraordinary."

"I just feel, personally, it's a way to express my faith, a way for me to use the talent that God gave me to witness back to him." What's also extraordinary, Loiacano said, is that such young people are so involved and committed to the project.

"It's so powerful to see teen-age girls want to do something for God," she said. "They're pouring out their hearts for something that's good. They choose to be at rehearsals all week and give up their weekends. ... They rehearse four days a week. They commit to be in prayer, and study their bibles all week. It's like they're getting their bodies ready and they're spirits ready. We work toward both of those."

The Coast Youth Ballet Ensemble Christmas Liturgical program has already performed this holiday season, and is scheduled for several more public outings before Christmas, including this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at Word of Faith Church in Bay St. Louis and at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach; Sunday, Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis; and on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pass Christian.

In addition, CYBA students will be performing in "The Nutcracker" at Biloxi's Saenger Theatre.



Members of the Coast Youth Ballet Academy's dance team for "The Nutcracker," which runs Sat., Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Biloxi Saenger Theatre. Pictured are, back row, from left: Kayla Russo, Simeon Long and Kristin Blanchard. Front row, from left: Ashley Ladner, Amanda Monti and Laura Shaw.

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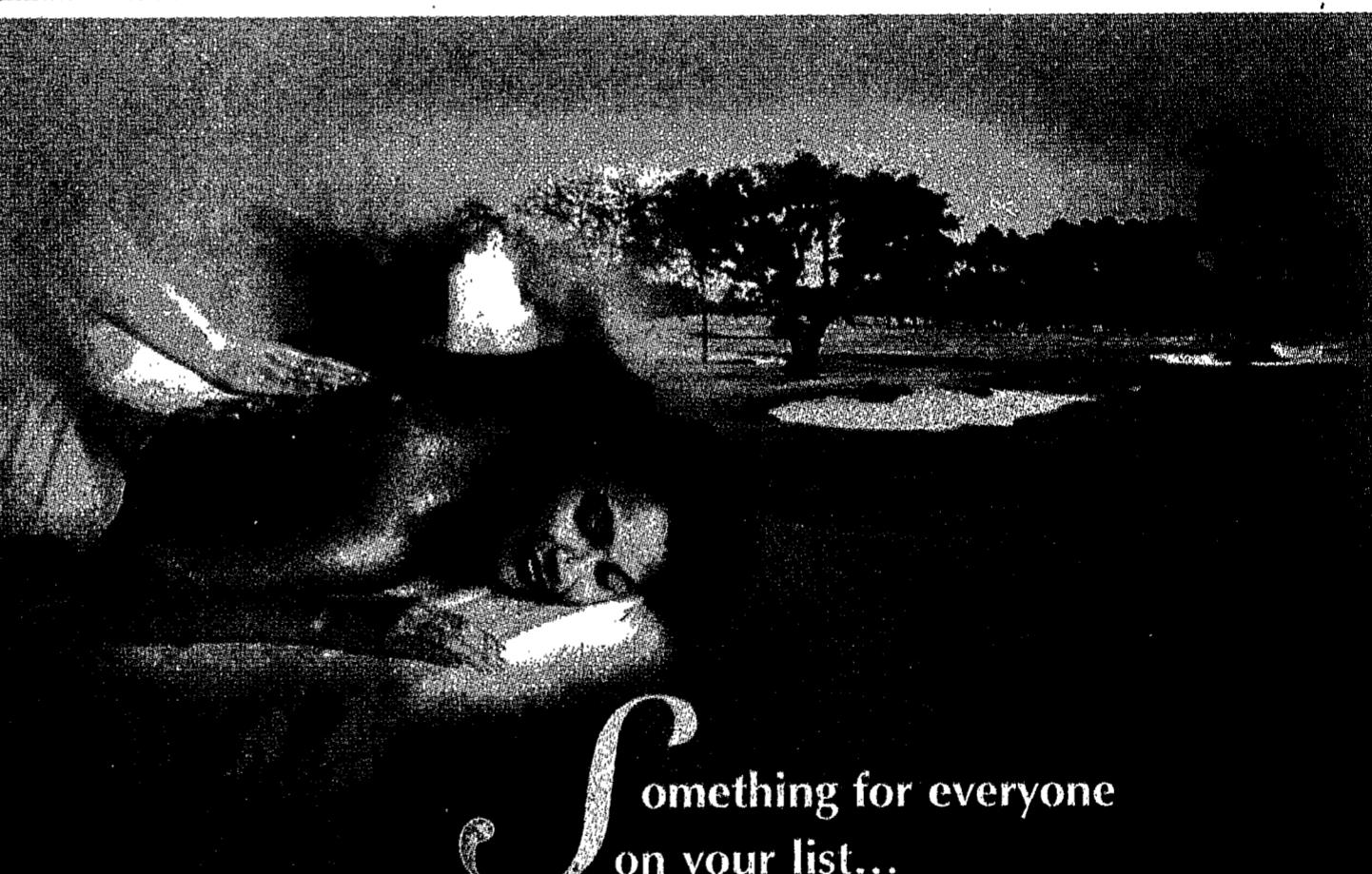
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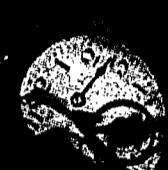
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# COMMUNITY

pg 1B

## 1962: NASA says no pay to county for roads in test area

### Back in Time



COMPILED BY  
ELLIS C. CUEVAS  
Publisher Emeritus

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TIME--PAGE 5B

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Art Clay Pottery by Regan G. Carney

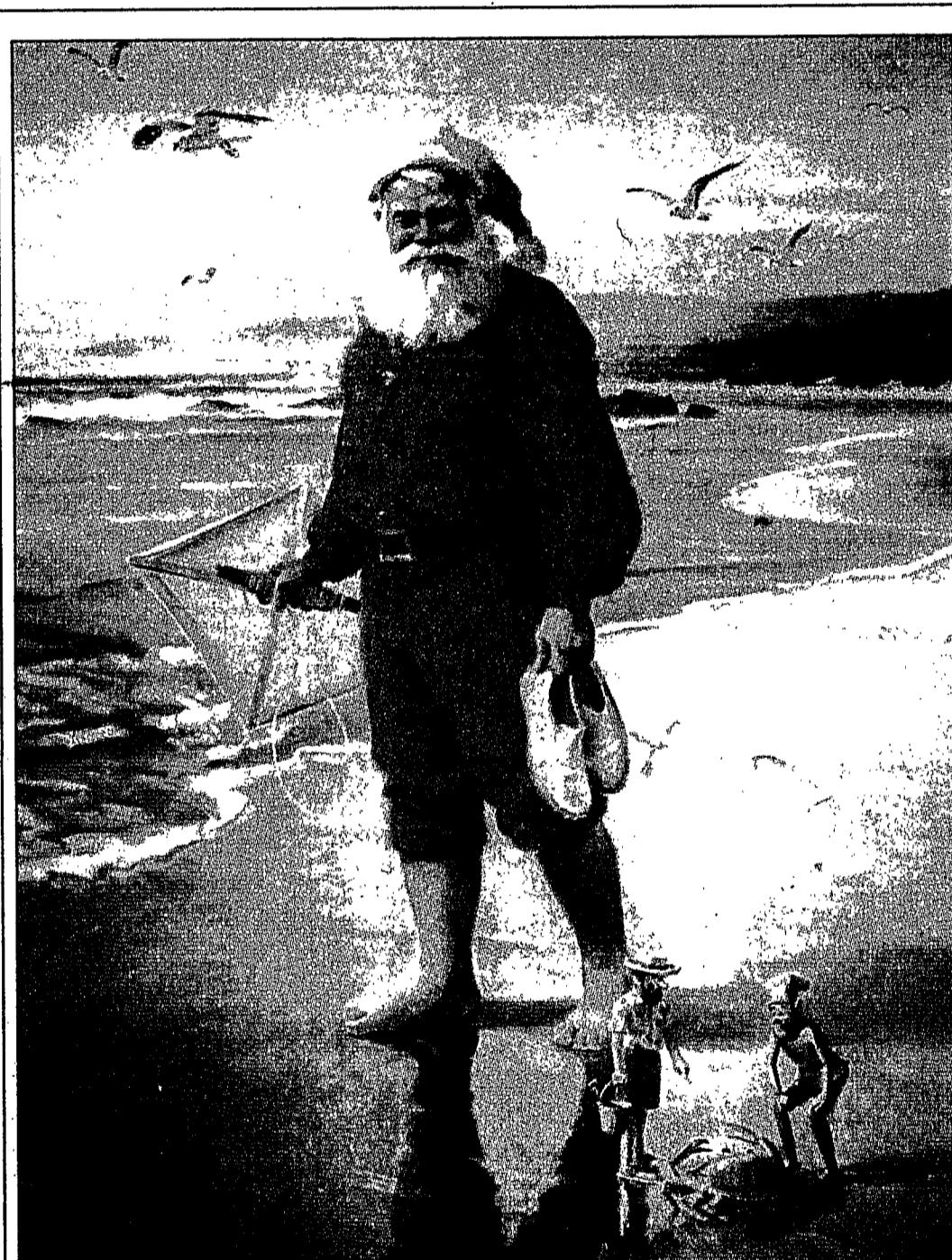
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CARNEY--PAGE 4B



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There is a smell, a strong dank musty smell of the bottom over the catch and the spill over on the deck.

This morning's sky was a winter sky.

I felt cold looking out across the water to where the oyster boats were working the large reefs near Pass Marianne. The sky was a slate gray with the sunshine making a flat glare off the water. The boats stood out in this light

as minute silhouettes, mostly small black sticks with squarish black bases.

During the October through June oyster season, a good many of these boats can be seen in clusters, dredging oysters from these large and extremely bountiful reefs, especially the ones over Square Handkerchief Shoal.

The reefs have wonderful names such as "Merrill Coquille Shoal" and, my favorite, "Tail of the Square Handkerchief Shoal."

There had been excitement out there a week ago when a string of two

barges ran down one of the oyster boats. Two men had been on the boat: one had managed to grab a hold on the lead barge and, scrambling aboard, saved himself; the other had fallen under and run over by the barge. Yesterday they found his body.

Today in the cold, the boats are back there working the reefs. Using my 60-power spotters scope, I tried bringing in details of the distant boats, but the moisture in the air made

### Views From a Front Porch

by Paul Estranza La Violette

laviolette@mail.datasync.com

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Although there are some tong areas closer in to the coast, the oystering here is done using motor-powered boats. In the Chesapeake Bay where I lived years ago,

VIEWS--PAGE 4B

## The Reason for the Season



Coast Youth Ballet members practice their liturgical dance routine, which will be performed at churches all over the Coast during the holidays.

### Coast Youth Ballet students worship through dance

BY GEOFF BELCHER  
News Editor

Some people make a joyful noise to celebrate their relationships to God — these folks make joyful movements.

For the fifth year in a row, young dancers from the Coast Youth Ballet Academy are touring churches all across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, sharing their love of God with the masses. "It's classical ballet and liturgical dance merged together," according to CYBA director Sharon Loiacano. "These are classically-trained dancers who are doing liturgical dance, so it's pretty extraordinary."

"I just feel, personally, it's a way to express my faith, a way for me to use the talent that God gave me to witness back to him." What's also extraordinary, Loiacano said, is that such young people are so involved and committed to the project.

"It's so powerful to see teen-age girls want to do something for God," she said. "They're pouring out their hearts for something that's good. They choose to be at rehearsals all week and give up their weekends. ... They rehearse four days a week. They commit to be in prayer, and study their bibles all week. It's like they're getting their bodies ready and they're spirits ready. We work toward both of those."

The Coast Youth Ballet Ensemble Christmas Liturgical program has already performed this holiday season, and is scheduled for several more public outings before Christmas, including this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at Word of Faith Church in Bay St. Louis and at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach; Sunday, Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis; and on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pass Christian.

In addition, CYBA students will be performing in "The Nutcracker" at Biloxi's Saenger Theatre.



Members of the Coast Youth Ballet Academy's dance team for "The Nutcracker," which runs Sat., Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Biloxi Saenger Theatre. Pictured are, back row, from left: Kayla Russo, Simeon Long and Kristin Blanchard. Front row, from left: Ashley Ladner, Amanda Monti and Laura Shaw.

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Lynda Cook,  
Manager of Sleep King in  
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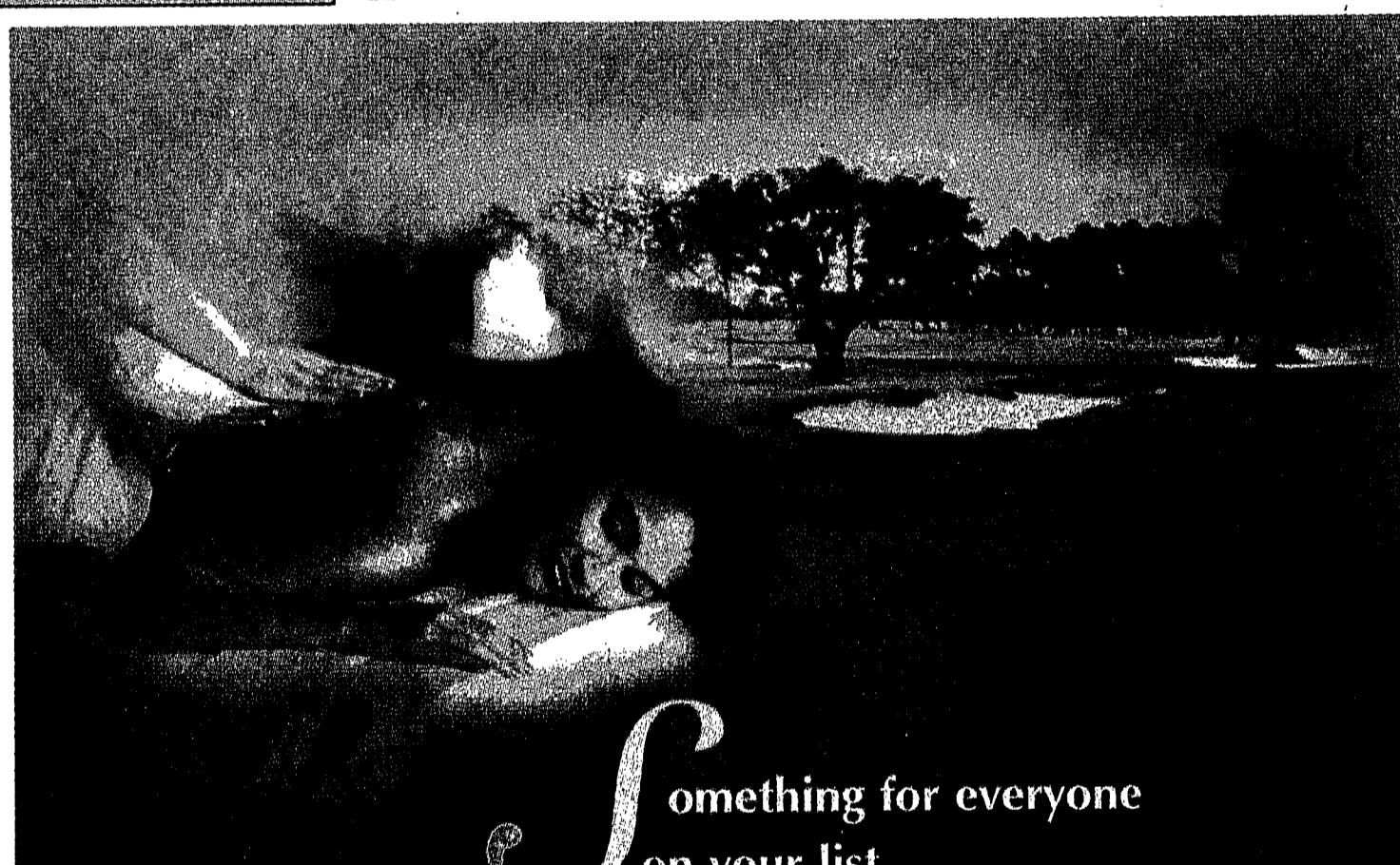
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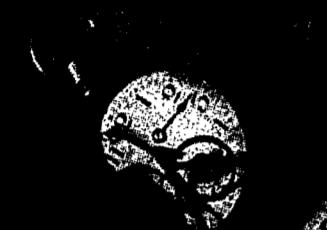
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CASINO & GOLF RESORT  
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# COMMUNITY

pg 1B

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Art in Clay/Pottery by Regan G. Carney

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CARNEY--PAGE 4B

### ... And one 'Incredible Journey'

Lori K. Gordon is the featured artist at Serenity Gallery for Second Saturday on Dec. 14 in Bay St. Louis.

Gordon's show, entitled "Incredible Journey," is a collection of multi-media works including paintings, wall pieces and vessels.

The wall pieces and vessels are created from handmade, recycled paper and incorporate organic and azoic materials such as mica, feathers, silver and semi-precious stones.

The paintings also incorporate natural materials, and are a reflection of Gordon's appreciation for the beauty to be found in nature.

Gordon states that this newest collection of work was inspired by her experiences during the past summer, when she spent three months living in a tent on a mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Her closest neighbors, she says, were wild turkeys and coyotes. She relates that she "experienced anew, as I have many times in my life, the thrill, wonder, and deep satisfaction of living in intimate contact with the natural world."

Gordon says that she finds the same sense of wonder in her life here on the Gulf Coast.

"Living as I do on the edge of a salt marsh, just a stone's throw from the beach, I marvel daily at the astounding abundance of gifts offered by the earth. Whether it's a feather

left behind by some unknown shore bird; a piece of tourmaline, rich with glittering flakes of mica; or a fossilized creature that lived eons ago; all of these discoveries delight and humble me, and cause me to reflect on the nature of time and existence."

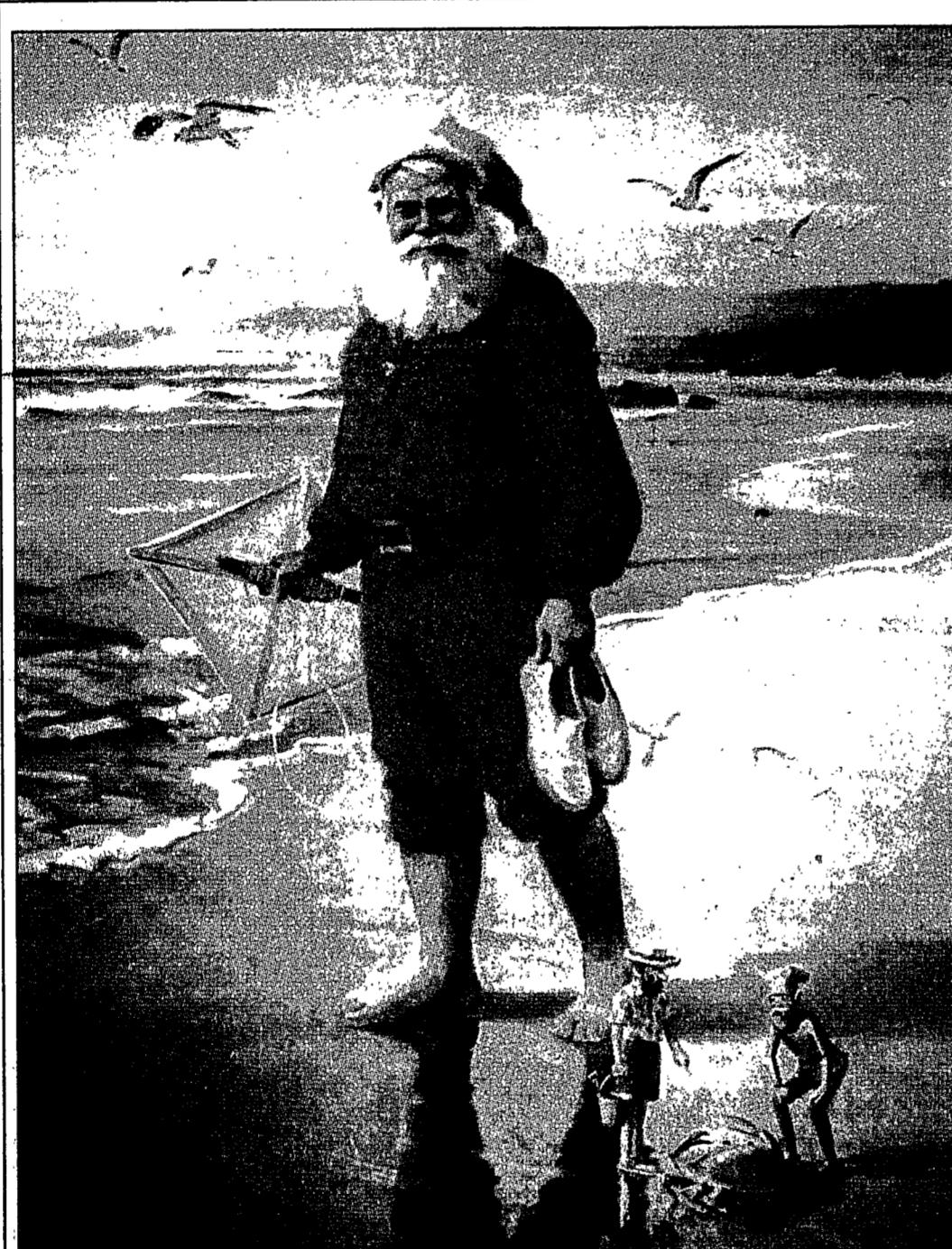
The title of Gordon's show is from a phrase borrowed from naturalist Loren Eiseley, who characterized the evolution of the earth and its inhabitants as an "incredible journey" through time and space.

Gordon recently participated in the "Phoenix" show at Quarter Moon Gallery, and anticipates another opening of her work in February, also in Bay St. Louis.

This month's show is Gordon's third consecutive holiday show at Serenity Gallery, which is located at 126 Main Street in Bay St. Louis. The gallery will be hosting an artist's reception from 5-8 p.m., and the artist will be available to discuss her work.

In addition to her representation by Serenity Gallery, Gordon's work may be seen at Morgan West Gallery in New Orleans, Antiques and Interiors in Pass Christian, and the Dakota Rose Art Gallery in Rapid City, S.D.

Several of her pieces have also been accepted into the permanent collections of the 1881 Museum in Custer, S.D., and the Days of '76 Museum in Deadwood, S.D.



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by Paul Estranza La Violette

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VIEWS--PAGE 4B

# SPORTS

## Our Lady soccer update

**OLA-George County**  
Defending state soccer champion Our Lady Academy ran its record to 9-0-2 Tuesday night with a 6-0 win over George County. Lauren Rittiner scored two goals for the Crescents. Lauren Goulet, Laura Ellis, Meghan Flynt and Margaret Hadden had one goal each. Goulet, Flynt, Katherine Milner, Julie Reboul, Nikki Harshbarger and Whittney Siewe each had an assist. Annie Giardino and Bretta Walsh combined in goal for the shutout.

OLA will travel to New Orleans Friday for a 7 p.m. contest with Sacred Heart.

### William Carey Tournament

Our Lady Academy participated in the William Carey Soccer Tournament last weekend. The Crescents defeated Bishop Sullivan of Baton Rouge 2-0. Laura Ellis and Rachel Cranford scored goals for OLA. Lauren Goulet and Katherine Milner each had an assist and Annie Giardino recorded the shutout in goal.

In game two, OLA tied Clinton 2-2. Lauren Rittiner and Meghan Flynt scored for the Crescents. Rachel Cranford and Kara Harshbarger each had an assist.

In the third and final

game of the tournament, OLA and Tupelo battled to a 1-1 tie. Rachel Cranford scored off an assist from Laura Ellis.

### OLA Junior High

Our Lady Academy junior high stopped Gulfport 6-0 Monday in junior high soccer. Olivia Hoff had two goals for the Crescents. Rebekah Kennedy, Kree Cameron, Shelby Wild and Amanda Meyers had one goal each. Margaret Rittiner, Kennedy, Meyers and Hoff had assists. Bri Johnson and Amelia Simpson combined in goal for the shutout.

The 3-0 junior Crescents will host Ocean Springs tonight at 6 p.m.

## Waveland Little League seeking volunteers for 2003 ball season

Waveland Little League is gearing up for its 2003 baseball season.

Anyone interested in being a manager, coach, assistant coach, umpire, score keeper, announcer or volunteer needs to fill out an application.

Waveland Little League

will begin to have baseball clinics beginning in January.

For information or to pick up an application, call Leo at 228-469-0687 or 228-806-0988.

Leave a message if no answer. Your call will be returned.

**Applications for a manager, coach, umpire, score keeper, announcer or volunteers are available by calling 469-0687 or 806-0988.**

## Fast-pitch softball clinic to benefit Gulfport High

Gulfport High Softball Booster Club is sponsoring a fast-pitch softball clinic Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Gulfport Sportsplex, Hwy. 49 and I-10.

8-11 a.m.: 13 and under hitting and fielding

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,

pitching, all ages 2-5 p.m., 14 and over hitting and fielding

Instructors include:

Head Coach Gay McNutt of USM

Coach Lisa Root, former head coach Div. 1A and all conference pitcher

Various other Division 1 level coaches and players

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Coaches who bring five players get one in free.

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**GAME 6:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## TIE BREAKER: EXACT SCORE

**MIAMI AT MINNESOTA**

**DEC. 21**

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**MIAMI AT MINNESOTA**  
**DEC. 21**



## Davis brings Conerly Trophy to USM

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II  
Staff Writer

Junior USM linebacker Rod Davis put an exclamation point on his stellar football career in Hattiesburg by claiming the Conerly Trophy in Jackson on Thursday, December 5.

The 6-4, 240-pound Davis is the first Golden Eagle player and defensive standout to win the award since its inception. Davis outpointed fellow finalists Ole Miss quarterback Eli Manning and Jackson State quarterback Robert Kent for the honor. Manning, the talented junior signal caller, won the award last year while Kent was a finalist for the trophy in 2001.

The award is named for Charlie Conerly who is a former All-American football player at Ole Miss. Conerly led the Rebels to the 1947 SEC championship while playing for Rebel coaching legend Johnny Vaught.

Conerly went on to star for many years in the NFL with the New York Giants and was the quarterback for the New York team in what has been widely considered the greatest football game ever played - the 1958 NFL championship game.

Davis led the nation in tackles with 157 and solo tackles with 116. He tallied 10.5 quarterback sacks, 23.5 tack-

les for loss, two interceptions, three pass break-ups, and 11 quarterback hurries, two fumble recoveries en route to being named First-Team All-Conference USA.

Davis will play one final game with the Golden Eagles in the Houston Bowl against a Big 12 team. The junior will graduate in May and has already petitioned to join the NFL Draft.

After his name was announced as the winner, Davis leaned over to Perian Conerly - the widow of Charlie Conerly - and stated, "Mrs. Conerly, please pinch me because I think I am dreaming."

The Gulfport native thanked all those instrumental in his becoming a solid football player, namely his mother Linda Johnson. Davis continued, "Mama, all you ever told us to do when we were growing up is to go out and try to make you proud. Well, I'm trying to make you proud now."

Davis, the consummate workhorse, has been described by his coach Jeff Bower as "...not just a great football player, but a class act both on and off the field."

Davis is noted for his hard work and gutsy play on the field but was close to not playing college football. He was a standout basketball player for the Admirals under Bryan



Photo courtesy of Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum  
From left are former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Danny White; Ms Linda Johnson, mother; Rod Davis, USM linebacker and 2002 Conerly Trophy recipient; Perian Conerly; and Hu Meena, President of Cellular South.

Caldwell. It was his basketball coach who talked him into pursuing football. Looks like that advice has paid off for Davis as he has been named a semi-finalist for the Butkus Award given annually to the best linebacker in the country.

There have been three other USM finalists in the past and all were defensive stars. Marchant Kennedy was a finalist in 1996 followed by Patrick Surtain in 1997. Adalius Thomas was named a finalist in 1999.

Davis added, "This is an honor that I take back with me for the entire school."

Manning won the award in 2001 after a record setting season in Oxford. This year the junior quarterback threw for 3,088 yards and 20 touch-

downs. He led the SEC in passing yardage and total offense. Robert Kent has become a feared passer in the SWAC while being named to the All-Conference team.

The Conerly Trophy is presented by the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum annually to the state's top football player regardless of division, school, or position. The award is voted on by a statewide panel of 60 voters that represent TV, radio, and print journalism. Past winners of the Conerly Award are Eli Manning of Ole Miss, Deuce McAllister of Ole Miss, Stewart Patridge of Ole Miss, James Johnson of Mississippi State, Josh Bright of Delta State, and Treginal Thomas of Delta State.

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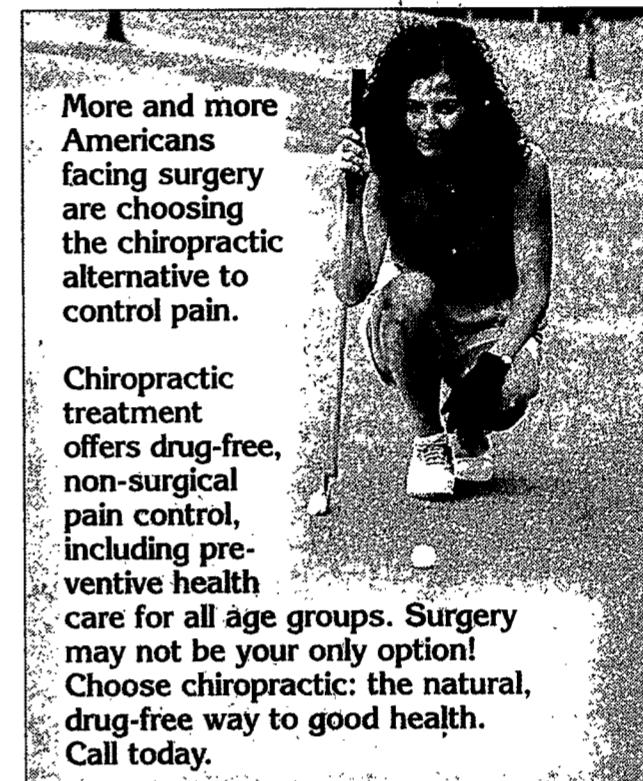
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## SSC honors fall sports student-athletes

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II

Staff Writer

St. Stanislaus College honored their student-athletes in football, swimming, and cross-country with an awards ceremony on Sunday, December 8 in the Our Lady of the Gulf Community Center.

In junior high football, head coach Brian Keys presented certificates of participation to Chad Boos, Joe Boudin, Derriion Elzy, Bryan Hall, Pablo Islas, Robert Jackson, Eric Lichenstein, Matt Matanga, Ryan Ray, Bonnie Renz, John Saxon, and Grant West.

Academic Excellence certificates were also handed out to those athletes who maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher during their sport season.

Certificates of participation and academic excellence certificates were presented to Keith Bartholomew, Sean Bentz, Ryan Brettel, Joe Cure, Josh Ellis, Trevor Gex, Samuel Goggins, David Grapusa, Joel Gregory, Ryan Hoda, Dustin Hoffpauir, Dillon Kenny, Powell Lobrano, Caleb McQueen, Jeremy Morgan, Bryce Morreale, Clark Seal, Connor Smith, Andrew Taylor, and Chris Tighe.

The Outstanding Offensive Player Award was merited by Robert Jackson and Chad Boos.

The Outstanding Defensive Player Award was won by Caleb McQueen and Dustin Hoffpauir. The Outstanding Special Teams Player Award was presented to Bryce Morreale and Ryan Ray.

The Off-Season Award was merited by Ryan Hoda, David Grapusa, and Sean Bentz. The Coaches Award was won by Eric Lichenstein.

In junior varsity and varsity football, head coach Casey Wittmann honored the following with certificates of participation: Bret Bentz, J.C. Brignone, Rollins Gordon, Ross Hotard, Eric Loprete, Kace Mitchell, Travis Morris, Rob Smith, and Chris Ward.

Those receiving academic excellence certificates, in addition to participation certificates, were Lance Cuevas, Brennan Gordon, Nathan Hamilton, Brennan Marlowe, Matt Milner, Josh Morgan, and Michael Neeb.

Those receiving varsity let-

ters were Blake Browne, Jeremy Burke, John Chapman, Jordan Ellis, Wil Harris, Vince Hoda, Herman Johnson, Michael Kivlan, Tim Kulikowski, Kit Stovall, and Ashton Wright. Those players honored with academic excellence and varsity letters were Bob Bass, Paul Burnett, Andrew Chevis, Michael Cure, Floyd Dedeaux, Zach Elkins, Nate Franco, Matt Hoda, Jeremy Keller, Lee Klein, Hunter Landgrave, Jeremy Lewis, Frederick Mallini, Stefan Sofianos, Brennan Thomas, Nick Weinmann, Louis West, and Spencer Ziegler.

The Scott Senner Award is presented to the Most Outstanding Special Teams Player. The award was merited by punter Jeremy Keller. The Forster Commagere Memorial Coaches Award was merited by wide receiver Jeremy Lewis. The Harry "Wop" Glover Memorial Award symbolizes the Most Improved Player and it was won by quarterback Tim Kulikowski and wide receiver Michael Cure.

The Marchmont "Marchie" Schwartz Memorial Award is presented to the Most Outstanding Defensive Player. It was presented to linebacker Lee Klein. The John "Baby Grand" Scafidi Memorial Award is presented to the Most Outstanding Lineman. Kit Stovall was the winner of the award.

The C.J. "Pete" Taylor Award is given to the Most Outstanding Offensive Player.

Matt Hoda and Gabe Willis each won the award. Ashton Wright laid claim to the Mr. Rock-a-chaw Award while Frederick Mallini brought home the Colonel Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard Award which symbolized the Most Outstanding Player.

Wittmann also presented the first installment of the Super Rocks award program.

Klein, Mallini, Cure, Wright, Stovall, and Willis were all recipients. The Iron Rocks awards are presented to those individuals that excel in off-season programs and knowledge of their position. The junior high and senior high recipients of these awards were Eric Lichenstein, Chad Boos, Grant West, Caleb

McQueen, David Grapusa, Trevor Gex, Ryan Hoda, Joe Cure, Sean Bentz, Robert Jackson, Matt Matranga, Jeremy Morgan, Bob Bass, Jeremy Burke, Paul Burnett, Andrew Chevis, Lance Cuevas, Michael Cure, Floyd Dedeaux, Zach Elkins, Jordan Ellis, Rollins Gordon, Matt Hoda, Vince Hoda, Herman Johnson, Lee Klein, Tim Kulikowski, Eric Loprete, Brennan Marlowe, Kace Mitchell, Brennan Gordon, Josh Morgan, Stefan Sofianos, Brennan Thomas, Nick Weinmann, Louis West, and Spencer Ziegler.

The Cross Country team placed second overall in the state 4A meet held in November. Head coach Steve Flannery presented junior high runners Brett Brooks and Victor Ortiz with certificates of participation. Those also receiving academic excellence certificates were Michael Boudreaux, James Headley, Harrison Hodges, Hayden Kren, Brad Reinhart, and Matthew Vollenweider.

The Most Improved Runner in junior high cross country was Hayden Kren. The Coaches Award was presented to Harrison Hodges. The Most Valuable Runner was Brad Reinhart.

The varsity lettermen were Kody Cannon, Tony Echevarria, Troy Johnston, Allen Leone, Kyle Lewis, and Danny Surbeck. John White was presented with a certificate of participation. All received academic excellence designation.

The Most Improved Runner was Danny Surbeck. The Mr. Rock-a-chaw Award was merited by Allen Leone while the Most Valuable Runner award was won by Kyle Lewis who recently won the Meet of Champions race in Clinton which paired all divisions in Mississippi.

Coach Anne Tucker presented certificates of participation in swimming to Joe Gibbons, John Gruzinskas, Ross Landgrave, Evan Magers, Andres Moreno, and Sherman Necaise. Those also receiving academic excellence designation were Reilly Bourgeois, Sean Bradford, Josh Lumkin, and Matt Proudfit.

The varsity letter winners

were Andrew Battle, Michael Enloe, David Florek, T.J. Koger, Cole Larsen, Ben Rader, Josh Schultz, and Christian Walter. All received academic excellence honors.

The Spirit Award was presented to Ben Rader and Ross Landgrave. The Senior Leadership Award was merited by David Florek and the Most Valuable Swimmer award was won by Cole Larsen.

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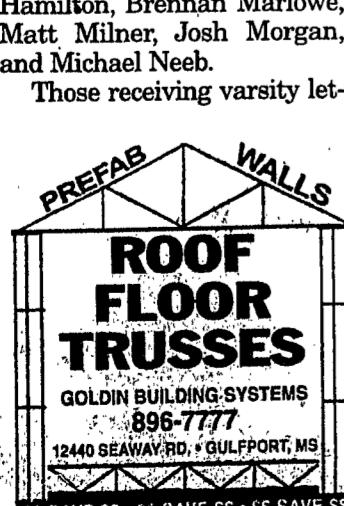
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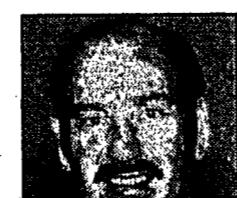
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# Entertainment

## Brenda Lee brings holiday show to Casino Magic BSL

### THE SEA COAST ECHO

Brenda Lee's Holiday Show comes to Casino Magic Bay St. Louis Saturday, Dec. 14 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$19.95, \$24.95, and \$29.95 and are available at the Casino Magic Box Office by calling 1-800-5-MAGIC-5 or at any Ticketmaster location.

Lee is maybe best known for her holiday mega-hit "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree," a holiday standard that is number four in the Top 10 All Time Christmas Songs. It is Lee's second biggest selling record, the first being "I'm Sorry." Lee recorded two other Christmas albums in the 60's that will lend themselves to her holiday show.

Lee's recording of "I'm Sorry" hit number one during the summer of 1960 and stayed on the Top 100 for over six months. "I'm Sorry" was also her first gold, and biggest selling, record selling over one million records.

The song became a huge international hit, and by the end of 1960, she was an international recording artist.

Lee was recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is already inducted into



Brenda Lee

the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Only a handful of artists have managed to achieve this dual tribute, a visible homage to the amazing sweep of influence from rockabilly to rock to country that Brenda Lee has had on

America's musical landscape.

She has been credited as a major career influence by female artists as diverse as Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Barbara Mandrell, Trisha Yearwood, England's '60's rocker, LuLu, and

"Heart's" Ann Wilson.

On the big screen, Lee had a small role in "Smokey and the Bandit" and sang "Again and Again" in the movie. In 1990, she recorded "You're in the Doghouse Now" for the Dick Tracy soundtrack album, however the song was not included in the motion picture.

She did sing that song daily during the Spirit of America show at Opryland. "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" was heard in the 1991 movie, "Home Alone," and "I'm Sorry" can be heard in the 1991 movie "The Fisher King" and the 1993 movie "This Boy's Life."

She has won every pop award except the Grammy Award, but she has received four Grammy nominations over her career. She has sold over 100 million records, has 29 gold records and five gold albums, and has the distinction of selling more records than any other woman in the history of recorded music and more double-sided hits than any other woman in pop music.

Lee and husband Ronnie have two daughters, Julie and Jolie, and two granddaughters.

Must be 21 to attend.

## Time -- training quarters

continued from Page 1B

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

December 5, 1952 - The Bay High Band Auxiliary met Monday night and elected Mrs. R.V. Bienvenue president. Other officers named were Mrs. Dennis Tonkel secretary and Mrs. R.V. Bienvenue treasurer.

The office of the Hancock County Production and Marketing Administration moved into the newly remodeled Agricultural Center October 17, 1952.

Fitzhugh Lee, a Hancock County Farmer is chairman of the Agricultural Conservation Program in Hancock County. Alton A. Kellar, vice-chairman and Frank Shaw, regular member, are also Hancock County farmers.

### SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 4, 1942 - Bay St. Louis had made a name for itself as training quarters for Sugar Bowl Football teams. With the exception of two years since the inauguration of the Sugar Bowl we have had the pleasure of entertaining one of the teams playing in the Sugar Bowl and this year is no exception.

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**EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

OF EMILY SALE GARDNER

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 2nd day of May, 2002, by the Clerk of Court of Hancock County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the estate of Emily Sale Gardner, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of Court for probate and registered according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This 25th day of November, A.D. 2002.

NANCY SALE PARKERSON

EXECUTRIX

Haas and Haas Attorneys

201 N. Second Street  
MS 39520  
(229) 467-5574

MS Bar No. 5091  
11/28/12/12/12/02

IN THE CHANCERY COURT

OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

EARL EDWARD LARDNER, DECEASED

NO. 2002-776

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the

undersigned, upon the estate of Earl Edward Lardner to present the same to the Clerk of Court for probate and registered according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 25th day of November, A.D. 2002.

ROBERT L. GENIN, JR.

FAVRE, GENIN & SCAFIDE

Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 70

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

12/28/12/12/12/12/02

IN THE CHANCERY COURT

OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

GERALDINE DOROTHY BRENTON, DECEASED

NO. 2002-902

**EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the

15th day of October, A.D. 2002, by the Honorable Timothy A. Kellar, Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the estate of Earl Edward Lardner to present the same to the Clerk of Court for probate and registered according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 25th day of November, A.D. 2002.

ROBERT L. GENIN, JR.

FAVRE, GENIN & SCAFIDE

Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 70

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

12/28/12/12/12/12/02

IN THE CHANCERY COURT

OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

GERALDINE DOROTHY BRENTON, DECEASED

NO. 2002-902

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the

undersigned, upon the estate of Earl Edward

Lardner to present the same to the Clerk of Court for probate and registered according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 25th day of November, A.D. 2002.

ROBERT L. GENIN, JR.

FAVRE, GENIN & SCAFIDE

Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 70

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

12/28/12/12/12/02

IN THE CHANCERY COURT

OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

GERALDINE DOROTHY BRENTON, DECEASED

NO. 2002-902

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the

undersigned, upon the estate of Earl Edward

Lardner to present the same to the Clerk of Court for probate and registered according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.

This the 25th day of November, A.D. 2002.

ROBERT L. GENIN, JR.

FAVRE, GENIN & SCAFIDE

Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 70

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

12/28/12/12/12/02

IN THE CHANCERY COURT

OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

GERALDINE DOROTHY BRENTON, DECEASED

NO. 2002-902

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to the

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Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 70

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

12/28/12/12/12/02

IN THE CHANCERY COURT

OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

GERALDINE DOROTHY BRENTON, DECEASED

NO. 2002-902

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

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undersigned, upon the estate of Earl Edward

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This the 25th day of November, A.D. 2002.

## Public Notices

IN THE CHANCERY COURT  
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
HELOA ZANKNER PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS

HILDA KERTH SERCOVICH and  
GEORGE A. SERCOVICH, SR.  
and their heirs in interest in any portion of  
real property known as 12 Block 103  
Shoreline Park Unit 7, on Pacific St. in Bay St.  
Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi as per the  
official plat of said subdivision on file in  
the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hancock  
County, Mississippi.

CAUSE NO. 2002-2023

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: All persons claiming any right, title,  
estate, lien or interest in or to a portion of  
real property known as 12 Block 103  
Shoreline Park Unit 7, on Pacific St. in Bay St.  
Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi as per the  
official plat of said subdivision on file in  
the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hancock  
County, Mississippi.

TO: HILDA KERTH SERCOVICH DEFENDANT

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed  
in this Court by Heloa Zankner, Plaintiff, seeking  
adverse possession to the above real property.  
Defendants other than you in this action are  
Hilda Kerth Sercovich and George Sercovich, Sr.  
and their heirs in interest in any portion of  
real property known as 12 Block 103  
Shoreline Park Unit 7, on Pacific St. in Bay St.  
Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi as per the  
official plat of said subdivision on file in  
the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hancock  
County, Mississippi.

TO: JOHN CRUTHIRD DEFENDANT

TO: ERIC D. WOOTEN DEFENDANT

TO: CLYDE DEASE, JR. DEFENDANT

TO: GERALD CRUTHIRD DEFENDANT

TO: ROBERT J. PARKER DEFENDANT

TO: MARY ANN BARBETTA DEFENDANT

TO: ROBERT L. MUNIZ DEFENDANT



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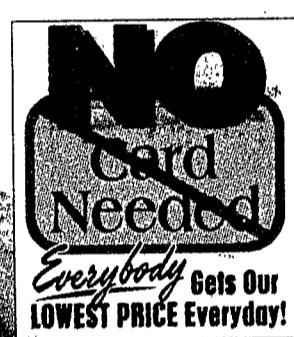
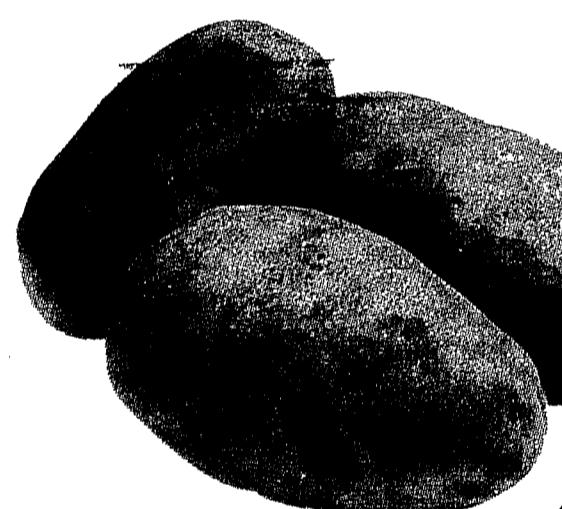
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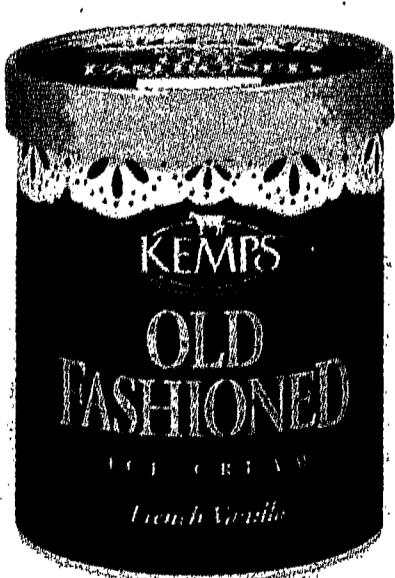
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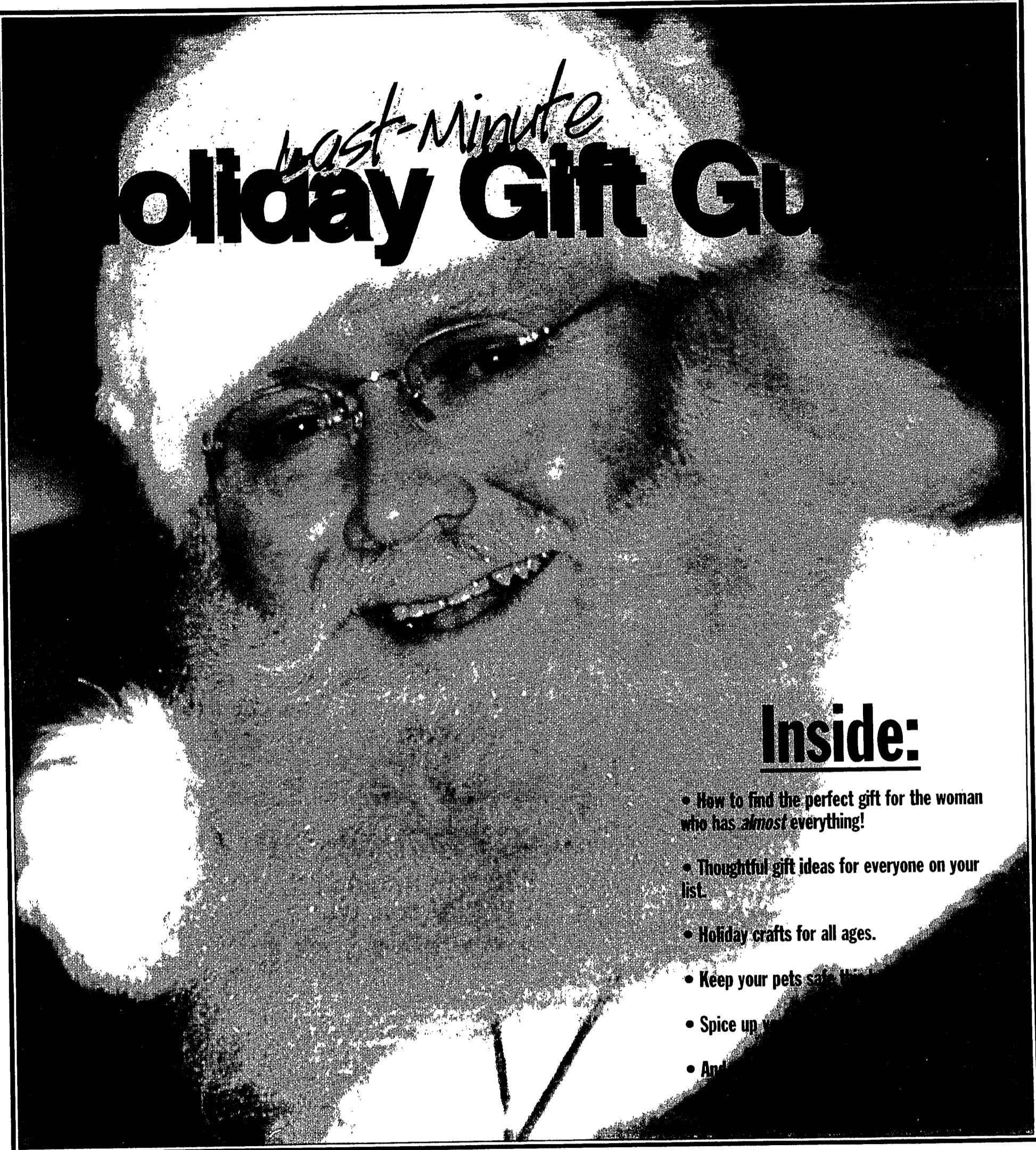
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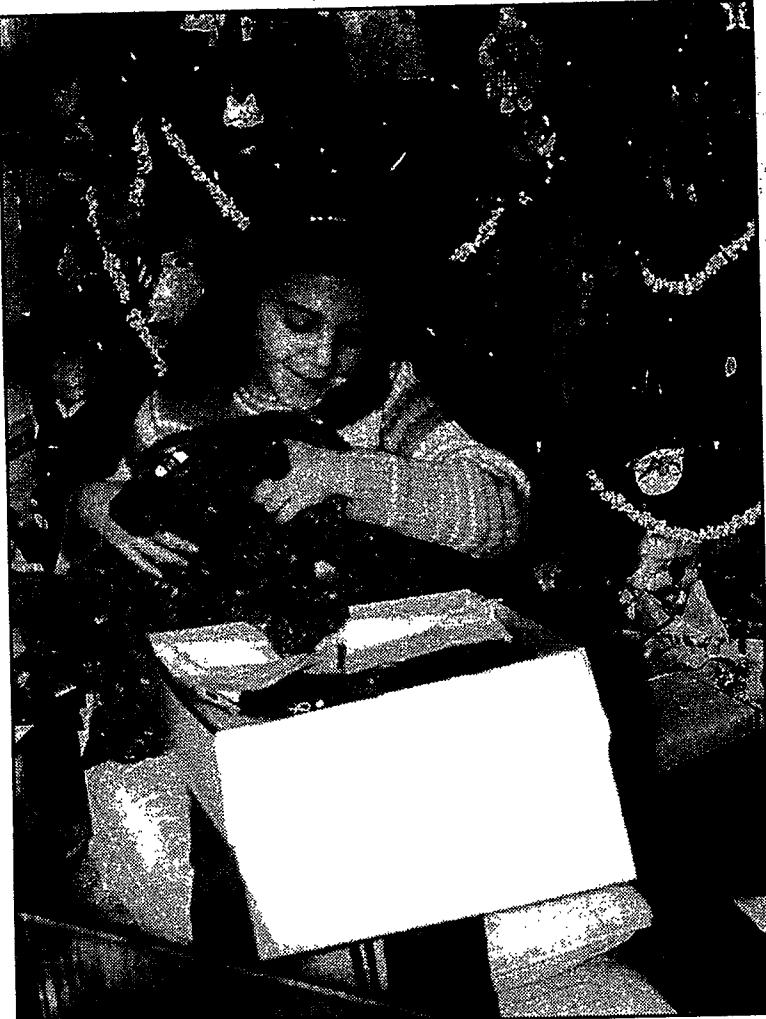
THANK YOU FOR MAKING US YOUR CHOICE TO SHOP.



# *last-Minute* **Holiday Gift Guide**

## Inside:

- How to find the perfect gift for the woman who has *almost* everything!
- Thoughtful gift ideas for everyone on your list.
- Holiday crafts for all ages.
- Keep your pets safe this season.
- Spice up your winter.
- And more!



LEARN THE KEY to choosing an ideal gift for almost anyone on your gift list.

## Discover the Secrets of Gifted Gift-Giving

THE SEA COAST ECHO

To some people, the most difficult aspect of the holidays is finding the perfect gift for friends or loved ones. Not every person is easy to buy for, and hours spent searching the stores can cause even the most steadfast holiday shopper to throw in the towel. There is, however, a selection of gifts that are appropriate for many, and this may be the answer to your worries about finding the perfect gift.

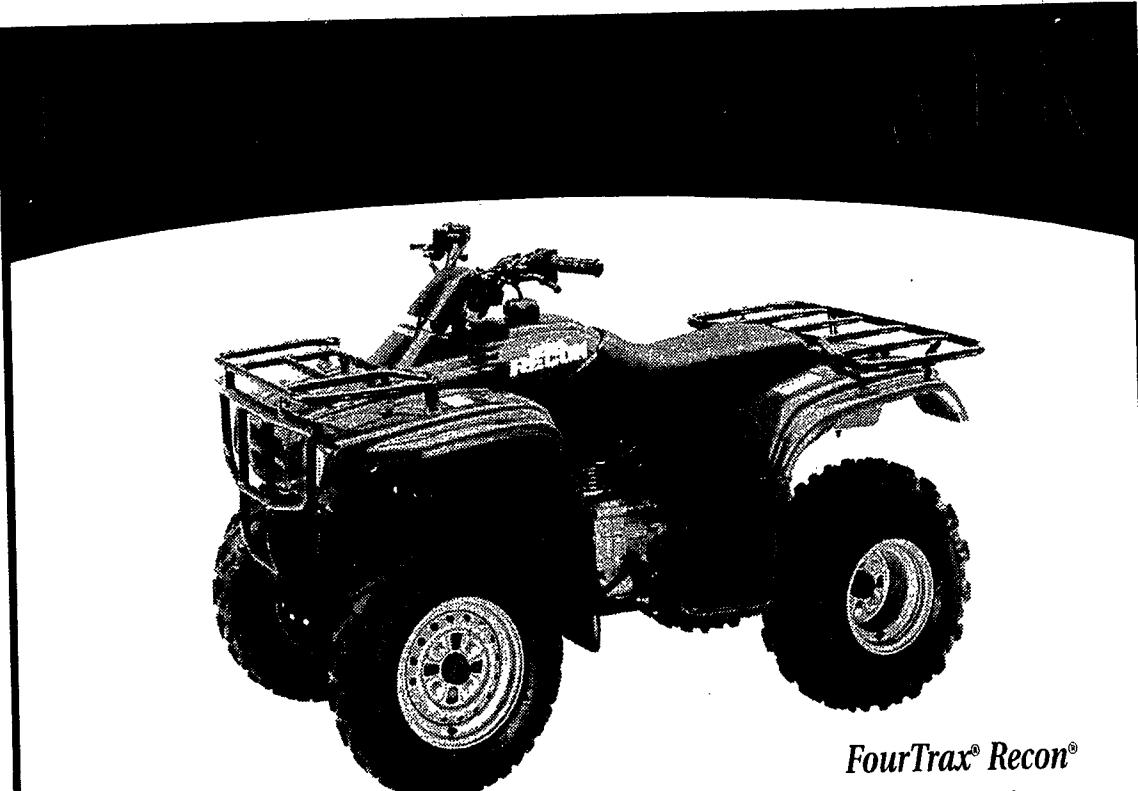
Of course, no single gift is perfect for everyone. According to "Present Perfect: The Essential Guide to Gift Giving" (Mobius Press), by Sherri and Larry Athay, the best gifts share several common characteristics: appropriateness, percep-

tiveness, selflessness, generosity, indulgence, surprise and evocation.

- Appropriateness — The perfect gift is fitting for the occasion and the relationship. A tin of homemade Christmas cookies to a coworker would be a thoughtful gesture.

- Perceptiveness — A gift that reflects the giver's attention to the tastes and preferences of the recipient is preferred. In essence, it's a compliment that says, "When I saw this, I couldn't help but think of you!"

- Selflessness — The giver should only desire to please the recipient — expecting nothing in return. This "no-return" policy includes any satisfaction the giver anticipates from the



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### Lumberjack

A family outing to a local tree farm is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Seven year old Patrick Ponder of Waveland not only picked out the family tree, he cut it and insisted on dragging it back to the work shed. Workers put the tree on a vibrating table to shake out the loose needles, wrapped it and placed the tree into the vehicle for the trip home.

# Artificial Christmas trees are 'growing' in popularity

## Mississippi tree growers see numbers getting pruned

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

The last time an artificial Christmas tree was on display at the Mississippi Capitol, a faulty electrical cord started a blaze and the building had to be evacuated.

The Capitol rules have changed as a result of the 1999 fire, says architectural historian Allison Davis. Now it's no electric lights and no fake trees.

That change has benefited Michael May, the owner of Lazy Acres Christmas Tree Farm in Chunky. This year, one of his 20-foot Leyland Cypress trees is the center-

piece of the Capitol's holiday decor. Local growers now regularly provide Christmas trees for the Capitol, governor's mansion and Old Capitol Museum.

State governments aren't the only ones giving business to Southern Christmas tree growers. The past two years, growers have seen their sales rise after more than ten years of decline in the industry.

Clarke Gernon, owner of the Shady Pond Tree Farm in Pearl River, La., said last year was the best he has had in a decade. He attributes it largely to families shaken by the Sept. 11 attacks looking for wholesome outings.

"Part of the gain we experienced last year was clearly linked to 9/11 and a resurgence of family oriented activities," Gernon said. "The atmosphere is picturesque, quiet, not like being in the mall."

Despite the recent upswing in business, the number of Christmas tree growers in the Deep South continues to decline.

In the past, glutted markets made growers price their trees too low, forcing many out of business.

Now, the entry of national retailers onto their turf and the growers' own aging ranks could make them a dying breed.

In the 1980s, hundreds of people tried their hand growing Christmas trees, betting a locally grown prod-

TREES--PAGE 21

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# Share Treasured Holiday photographs with friends

## THE SEA COAST ECHO

In no time at all, the holidays will be here and parties, get-togethers with friends and celebrations with family will creep their way into your calendar. Along with the excitement and fun holiday festivities bring there are plenty of opportunities to capture cherished memories on film.

With your trusty camera in hand, get ready to memorialize all those special moments. But how do you make sure your pictures turn out as memorable as the celebration? Here are some pointers from the experts at Pacific Image Electronics.

- Rely on candids — Candid shots allow you as a photographer to capture the true essence of a person and the moment.

Staged or posed shots can leave you with an album full of static poses. Plus, when people don't know they are being photographed, they are far less self-conscious. You just might be able to snap a shot of your photo-shy and elusive Uncle Dave!

- Watch your lighting — Make sure your light source is behind you (not your subjects) when snapping photos. This way you'll avoid the washed out "halo" effect or the silhouette that often occurs when your subject poses in front of a sunny window.

- Steer clear of mirrors — You may end up with your reflection in the photo or a large flash spot.

- Share the memories — Reliving this holiday sea-



ENSURE FAMILY MEMORIES are preserved on film. Learn the tips for spectacular photos.

**Candid shots allow you as a photographer to capture the true essence of a person and the moment. Staged or posed shots can leave you with an album full of static poses.**

every photographic detail. The scanner is able to capture over 4.2 mega pixels, which lets you make 8.5 inch by 11 inch prints with better quality than the original prints.

You can also retouch damaged photos and digitize your film to post on the

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son's highlights and sharing them with family and friends is easy with the PrimeFilm 1800AFL film scanner.

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The automatic film loader allows you to load a roll or strip of film and walk away while the scanner does its work. The entire family will enjoy creating a digital photo album that can be shared via e-mail, Internet or prints for many years to come.

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# Trend Alert: Hot Accessories for Fashionable Gift-Giving

For the woman in your life who has *almost* everything

THE SEA COAST ECHO

**C**ity sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style ... and shoppers heading to the mall in droves to find the perfect gift for friends and loved ones. One of the first places people go is to the clothing stores, brimming with sales. However, clothing shopping for friends or family members can be difficult, particularly if you're not sure of their sizes and style preferences. How many times have you found yourself looking around the store for someone who looks about the same size as your intended recipient?

An easier alternative to "guess-timating" someone's size and style sense may be to look for the accessories that add the perfect finishing touch to any ensemble.

This season's most exciting accessories are inspired by the Bohemian jet set look of the early 1970s, seen everywhere from the glossy pages of fashion magazines to Hollywood film premieres. Take a gander at these ideas from the experts at the Accessories Council:

- It's all about suede — This fabric is back in a big way, serving as a main component of the "Hippie de Luxe" look this year. Suede fringed bags, knee-high boots and fringed belts offer the ultimate in gift-giving.

- Gift Wrap — Superb for adding a touch of sophistication to cool weather dressing, wraps are still a popular fashion choice. Highly versatile, they look equally at home over an elegant suit or a pair of favorite jeans — an ideal cover-up choice for a night out at theatre or the movies. Idea: capitalize on the current rage for suede and hippie couture with a



Clockwise from top left: Loden green suede fringed bag with tooled trim by Helen Welsh; Antique brass, smoked topaz and turquoise necklace with detachable pendant by Liz Palacios; Suede "Marvelous" boot in chocolate by Isaac Mizrahi; Chocolate calf suede fringed belt with hand-wrapped brass rings Ellen Tracy; Antique brass and garnet chandelier earrings by Liz Palacios; Loden pointelle tights by Ellen Tracy; Cognac fringed suede wrap by Helen Welsh.

fringed wrap.

- Think antique — Scour thrift stores, consignment shops or even a relative's jewelry box for brightly beaded fun jewelry. Antique brass chandelier earrings or a smoked topaz and turquoise necklace offer a touch of "swing and shimmer" detailing to any style palette.
- Shake, tassel and roll —

Accessories that shake, shimmer or jingle are definite must-haves. A large eye-catching piece is more effective than several smaller ones.

- Cool it with color — Muted, earth tones complement just about any complexion. Browse for items in moss, chocolate, fawn and copper for the ideal additions to a subtle look.

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# Golden Gifts for Seniors

## THE SEA COAST ECHO

When it comes time to buy presents for seniors, the task can be quite a challenge. It's easy to buy them the same thing year after year, and many seniors are more interested in giving than in receiving more gifts. Today's seniors are also healthier and more active than ever, and gifts should reflect that changing attitude. Here are a few ideas to get you started when holiday shopping for the favorite senior in your life, whether it is a parent, grandparent, next-door neighbor or friend.

### HOMESPUN CLASSICS

- Anything involving the grandchildren is sure to be a winner. Have them draw a picture, call, or send a note.
- Have old photographs copied or restored.
- For crafty types, make your own afghan blanket, quilt or throw.
- Put together an updated

family photo album, or have your family pose for portraits. Put the photos in frames decorated by the kids.

- Create a calendar using family photos. Most photo developing stores can create one for a moderate price.
- Put together your own personalized recipe box or album with family favorites and a few of your own special recipes.

### PRACTICAL GIFTS

- Installing a railing for outdoor steps can provide safety and peace-of-mind.
- An air-purifying system can be especially helpful for seniors with asthma.
- Pre-pay long distance or cable services
- Gift certificate for a monthly housecleaning (to be done by you or a cleaning service).
- A bathtub railing can be a life-saving gift.
- Install a home alarm system for seniors living alone.



TODAY'S SENIORS are also healthier and more active than ever, and gifts should reflect that changing attitude.

• A coupon book will last for many months after the holidays.

- A gift subscription to a newspaper or favorite magazine.

If you're still having trouble deciding on an appropriate gift, do a little research on the person you're buying for. Chances are you already know the person's likes and dislikes simply through everyday conversation. Think about the things that interest them, their hobbies and what they enjoy. You may also have to consider physical limitations. For instance, maybe grandma loves literature but has poor eyesight. A large print book or an audio book might be the way to go. However, when in doubt, your best bet is to stay true to what the holidays are all about — giving a gift from the heart.

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# Learn How to Choose Just the Right Doll for Your Child

## THE SEA COAST ECHO

Perhaps it was handmade from fabric scraps and given to you by your grandmother, or a sparkling new delight that greeted you one holiday morning. Maybe it was loved by an older sister before she passed it on to you. Think back — there was probably a special doll who was your constant companion through childhood. You'll no doubt want your youngsters to experience the same joy and comfort dolls brought to you. The trouble is, many are not made to withstand a child's active lifestyle. But how do you find the right doll for your child? Following are a few pointers from the doll experts at Corolle.

### CONSTRUCTION

Children develop a strong bond with their doll, so whichever one you choose should be able to withstand the rigors of play. If you have an active child, you may want a doll with a sealed vinyl body. This will guarantee durability when your little one takes her in the bathtub, pool or decides that they should share lunch. A soft-bodied doll is good for cuddling and may be a better choice for younger children. The size and weight of the doll are also important factors to consider. Ideally, a doll should correspond to the length of the forearm and the extended fingers of the child, so that it can be easily cradled in the crook of the arm. The weight should be proportionate to that of the child. For example, Corolle baby dolls weigh on average about 1 to 1 1/2 pounds.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Nowadays, there are almost as many dolls on the market as there are children to play with them. Caucasian, Hispanic, and African-American dolls are available from "preemie" all the way to toddler-age to suit every child.



**THERE ARE MANY** factors you should consider when buying your child a doll for Christmas.

Choose a doll designed for your child's age — this way your child can mix and match clothing with a friend. If your little one prefers to play "House," choose a baby who needs true affection. A doll that features designer clothing and a host of accessories will keep budding collectors busy for hours.

One manufacturer that specializes in finely-crafted and unique dolls is Corolle, the leading French doll manufacturer. Attention to detail is evident in the quality of these dolls. Each doll is designed to resemble real children's faces, with authentically sculpted facial expressions — including dimples and freckles. Plus, the dolls are durable and many are machine washable — with the exception of those with wigs or all-vinyl bodies. All dolls are hand-washable with the exception of those with a mechanism included inside. Corolle dolls are also lightly scented with vanilla so when your little

one cuddles tight, she is rewarded with a pleasant aroma.

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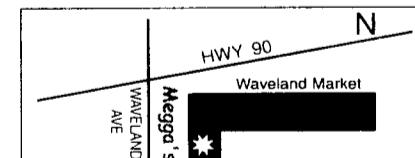
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# Keep Your Kids Occupied This Holiday Season With These Christmas Crafts

## Christmas Crafts for Creative Kids

(FeatureSource) - If you're the parent of a three- to six-year-old, you're probably already hearing, "How many days left until Christmas?" Help shorten the wait for your preschooler with these Christmas crafts from "The Preschooler's Busy Book" (Meadowbrook Press) by Trish Kuffner.

### Christmas Place Mats

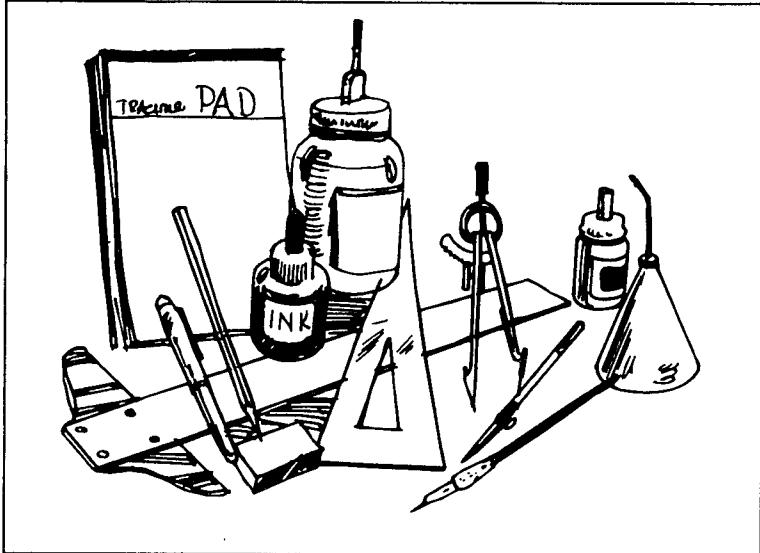
Cut up old greeting cards, glue the artwork onto a piece of construction paper or light cardboard, and cover it with clear contact paper. You can also have your child cut his or her gift wishes from a catalog or magazine and glue them onto paper to make a wish-list place mat.

### Glitter Balls

Pour glitter into a shallow dish. Spread glue evenly over a Styrofoam ball and roll it in glitter. Let the ball dry and attach a thread for hanging it on the Christmas tree.

### Christmas Tree Picture

Cut out a Christmas tree from green construction paper. Use a paper hole punch to punch out dots from various colors of construction paper. Glue the dots to the tree for decoration and add sequins or glitter and a star at the top.



### Paper Plate Wreath

Cut a hole in the center of a green paper plate. Cut or tear red and green tissue paper into small pieces. Have your child twist or crumple the paper into small balls and glue them onto the plate. Add a ribbon bow.

"The Preschooler's Busy Book" contains 365 activities for three- to six-year-olds, using things found around the home. It shows parents and day-care providers how to prevent boredom and keep preschoolers occupied. It can be found in bookstores everywhere.

*Make the wait for Christmas more fun with these holiday crafts for kids six- to ten-years-old from Trish Kuffner's book, "The Children's Busy Book" (Meadowbrook Press).*

### Christmas Card Magnets

Help your child cut images from old Christmas cards. Cut small pieces of magnetic strip and attach one to the back of each cutout. Use the magnets to decorate the refrigerator or stick them to a baking sheet and bring them along when you're traveling.

### Cinnamon Ornament

Glue two cinnamon sticks together. Glue on more cinn-

mon sticks one at a time to make a little bundle.

Let your child knot ribbon around the middle of the bundle and tie the ends of the ribbon into a loop for hanging. Tuck a sprig of holly or other greenery under the ribbon knot.

### Reader's Digest Christmas Tree

Get an old copy of Reader's Digest and beginning with the first page of the magazine, fold down the top corner so the top edge meets the binding. Sharply crease the fold. Let your child fold the remaining pages in the same way. Fold the front and back covers last and tape or staple them together so the pages fan out to make a tree shape. Spray-paint the tree in green, gold, silver, or white.

"The Children's Busy Book" contains 365 activities for six- to 10-year-olds, using things around the home. It shows parents and day-care providers how to prevent boredom and keep children occupied. It can be found in bookstores everywhere.

This Christmas, boost her confidence and self esteem by helping her achieve her fitness goal. A gift certificate to Curves for women is the perfect present.



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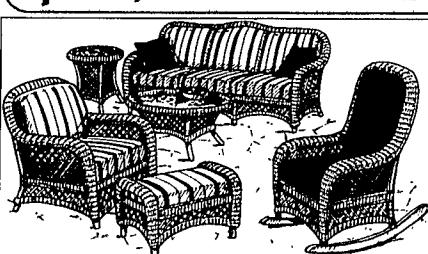
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# New Toy Puts Learning in Your Child's Hands

THE SEA COAST ECHO

**T**he best toys do more than entertain your children for a few hours at a time. They offer kids an opportunity to grow, explore the world around them and discover something new each time children sit down to play.

However, even in the endless aisles of toy stores and online retailers, such toys can be few and far between.

Now, just in time for the holiday season, Chuck Hoberman, the award-winning inventor, artist and engineer behind the Hoberman Arch at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, has created a new product line sure to delight both children and adults. The Hoberman® Discover Dome™ series, available in Nature, Dinosaur and Space themes, is a fun toy, an educational reference tool, a three-dimensional book, an object of art and a visual storyteller all in one.

Appropriate for children ages 6 and up, and utilizing a new technology that adds an origami-like paper surface to expanding sphere-linkages, the dome's surface is saturated with content both inside and out. Children can witness the stunning transformation of the sphere's outer surface even as they marvel at the fun facts and fascinating visuals that appear as if by magic as the dome is expanded.



THE GREATEST GIFT you can give your child is the gift of knowledge with fun and educational toys like the Space Dome, pictured here, from the Hoberman Discover Dome series.

The Hoberman line of toys is the recipient of numerous toy awards. The Hoberman Mega Sphere was honored with the Parents' Choice Gold Award and received Dr. Toy's Best Classic Toy Award. Other awards won in past years include the

Parents' Choice Platinum and Approved Awards, and Oppenheim Toy Awards.

Discover Domes are available at major retailers nationwide, including Wal-Mart, Toys "R" Us, and through the J.C. Penney catalog.



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# High-Tech Gift Giving Made Easy

CD, DVD,  
MP3 or all of  
the above?

THE SEA COAST ECHO

**T**echnology is supposed to make life a little easier. However, when it comes to shopping for high-tech gifts, from CDs to DVDs, minidisks and MP3 players — the sheer variety of items to choose from can make the task at hand anything but easy. But wait — there's hope. Use this list of some of this season's entertainment must-haves as a guide:

- DVD players — VHS, once the superstars of home video are definitely on their way out. The crisp sound and superior picture quality — not to mention all those cool interactive features that don't fit on cassettes — make DVDs and players a smart choice for gift-giving.

- CD recorders — With all the recent labor troubles in baseball, burning CDs is quickly becoming a favorite pastime for people of all ages.

It makes it easy to share favorite music and bring it on the road. CD recorders also also great for creating digital photo albums, a perfect heartfelt gift for family and friends.

- Digital video recording software — Satisfy the budding Cecil B. DeMille in the family with easy software that can help them turn humdrum home movies into high quality mini produc-



MAKE SURE THE RIGHT high-tech gifts are nestled under the tree.

tions.

- MP3 players — MP3 players offer music at its most portable.

Compressed files allow you to fit more songs per CD, allowing for endless entertainment.

Many companies now offer an all-in-one unit that lets you easily record to CD from just about any source and includes a high-quality DVD player. Many units also feature a digital video recorder (DV-R) that records from DVDs, VHS tapes, video cameras (digital or analog) to CD-R and CD-RW media quickly and easily.

## Did You Know?

**It's been said that wearing red guarantees plenty of attention, and even Santa Claus is no exception. But have you ever wondered how he got that famous red suit? It originates in the legend of St. Nicholas, a priest renown for his generosity, especially to children. When elevated to the rank of bishop, Nicholas wore a red hat, called a miter, and a long, red robe. As the legend evolved, so did Santa's wardrobe, eventually to a more stylish red suit.**

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# Cookware – The Holiday Gift that's Sure to Fit Every Cook

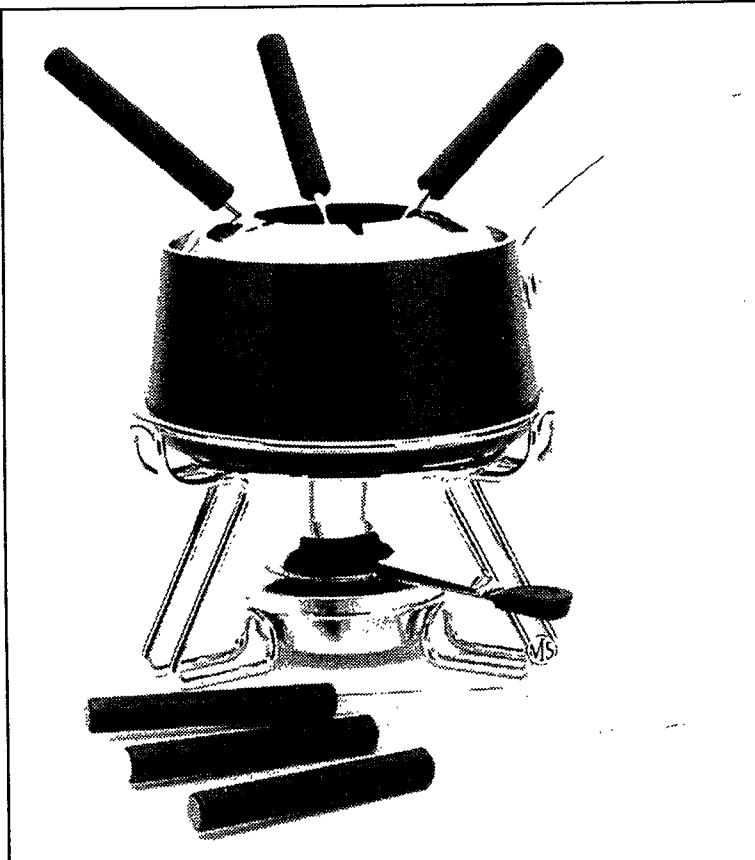
## THE SEA COAST ECHO

**F**rom basic pots to specialty pans, a gift of cookware is a thoughtful way to brighten the holidays for the cooks on your gift list.

Beginning cooks — as well as people who are just starting out — always need to round out their basic assortment of cookware. This can range from core items such as a nonstick skillet, which no kitchen should be without, to a complete set of the latest cookware. More experienced cooks will appreciate some of the newest specialty products available, like special sauciers and griddles. In addition, many of the specialized pans now on the market also would be thoughtful gifts for cooks who love to entertain. For example, fondue pots or woks are must-haves for creating the hottest fondue or stir fry recipes that are popular today.

Here is a sneak peak at some of the newest cookware items that would appeal to any cook on your holiday gift list:

- The classic colander pot with Straining Lid is ideal for the pasta lovers on your list. This unique 5-quart pot features a convenient colander built into the lid, which locks onto the pot for safety. The stainless steel lid has different hole sizes on either side to accommodate small and large food, and the lid



**YOU'RE SURE TO PLEASE ANY COOK** on your holiday gift list with the latest in high-quality, durable cookware. Shown above: The Circulon Style Fondue Pot set

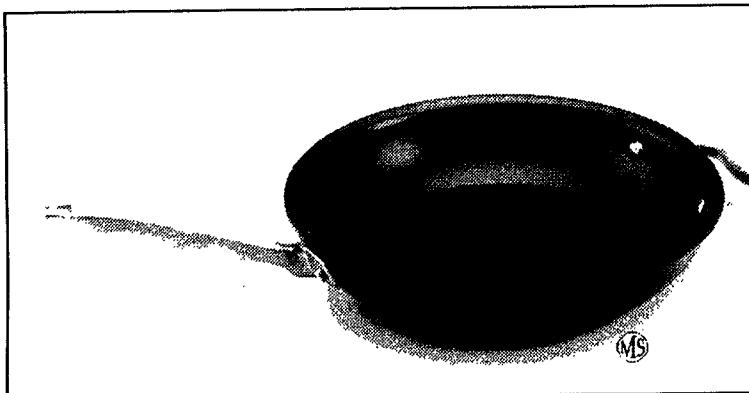
also features a stay-cool handle. Retailing for \$50 – \$100, the hard-anodized pot has a nonstick interior for easy cleanup.

- The classic 14-inch covered wok is a terrific addition to any cooking aficionado's repertoire. The large, nonstick wok features a round bowl and sloped sides for classic stir-fry recipes. Ranging in price from \$50 – \$100, the wok made of hard-anodized aluminum that

heats evenly and quickly, and comes with a high-domed, stainless steel lid, which is essential for flavorful steaming.

- The Circulon Steel 14-inch Round Griddle (\$50 to \$100) is an oversized nonstick griddle that will be a welcome addition in any cook's assortment. The product combines a hi-low wave technology — which helps release food from the surface of the pan — and a titanium reinforced nonstick interior for ease-of-cleaning. Made of polished stainless steel, the pan looks as good as it performs. Moreover, the griddle is dishwasher safe and largely oven-safe, with handles that can withstand heat up to 350 F.

- Fondue is back, and any entertainer on your gift list will love the Circulon Style Fondue Pot set. Circulon Style is hard-anodized cook-



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#### THE SEA COAST ECHO

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# Shower Loved Ones With Encouraging Words and Gifts

THE SEA COAST ECHO

**T**he holidays are here again. A time of happiness and cheer — but not for everyone. For some people, the holidays bring on a major case of the blues. Whether it's from the stress of the season — not enough money for gifts, lack of time from too much rushing around — or from feeling lonely and missing faraway family and friends, not everyone gets swept up in the holiday spirit.

Do you have a friend or family member who is a little down in the dumps this season? It's time to cheer him or her up with some truly thoughtful and unique holiday gifts. Here are some ideas to get you started, courtesy of Robyn Freedman Spizman, author of "When Words Matter Most" (Crown).

- Smart cookies — Send someone a box or arrangement of cookies with a note that says, "You're the smartest cookie I know."

- Penny for your thoughts — Go to the bank and get a bunch of shiny new pennies. Give them out to "shining examples" of people you appreciate. Tell them they shine in your book.

- Tea's the season to be jolly — Put together a basket of gourmet flavored teas. This gift is certain to warm up that special person on your gift list.

- All wound up? — Send a windup toy to someone who is stressed out. Add a note that says, "In case you get too wound up, wind this up instead."

- Think the world of someone — Give someone a map of the world tied up in a ribbon with a note that says, "I think the world of you."

- Warm wishes — Send your warmest wishes with a basket filled with your favorite soup, gourmet coffee or anything that will warm someone up.

- Deliver a dictionary —



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# Taking a Trip? Avoid Woes with Travel Insurance

THE SEA COAST ECHO

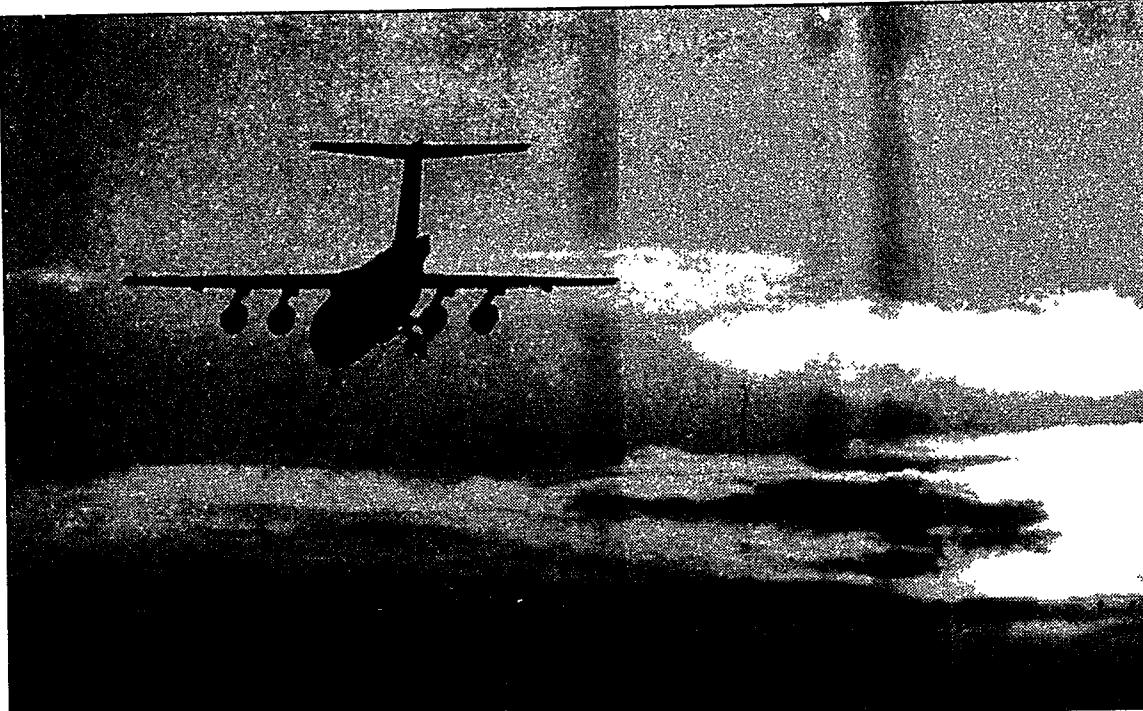
**M**any opt to travel during this time of year, getting away from their work day routine for a few magical days or weeks. For others, a trip can be a spectacular holiday gift. Whatever your reason for taking off, as you pack your swimsuit, walking shoes and toiletries, it pays to take a few moments to consider your level of preparedness in case of a health or medical emergency. Emergencies are rare, but you could be caught in a situation where your health coverage does not travel as far as your passport does.

The simple fact is that many international travelers do not have appropriate insurance protection.

Government sponsored health programs like Medicare almost never cover care received in a foreign country. Even if you're traveling on business, you may have significant gaps in your coverage. Employer-sponsored plans often limit overseas coverage to emergency care only (and the burden will be on you to prove it's an emergency). Emergency medical evacuation is almost never covered.

## WHY IS INSURANCE CRITICAL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL?

Obtaining healthcare in certain parts of the world can be tricky. Some hospitals won't provide any treatment or won't allow a patient to be discharged until the hospital has received a guarantee of payment. Such guarantees are commonly provided by travel insurers in conjunction with assistance providers, but rarely by other insurers or managed care plans. This means you may have to pay in advance — perhaps thousands of dollars — with your credit card, presuming, of course, the hospital accepts foreign credit cards and yours can cover the cost.



BEFORE YOU TAKEOFF on your holiday adventures, remember to verify if your health insurance coverage protects you overseas.

## Did You Know?

"Merry Christmas" is just the beginning. Take a look at how people around the world express the joyous sentiments of the season:

Spanish — Feliz Navidad Italian — Buone Feste Natale

German — Frohe Weihnachten Portuguese — Boas Festas

Greek — Kala Christouyenna Indonesian — Selamat Hari Natal

In addition, leaving a foreign locale, either for a place with higher quality medical care or to return home where your regular insurance is accepted, can be a pose its own measure of difficulty. Medical evacuations are tricky to arrange and there are some air ambulance providers who should be avoided. Even worse, some local authorities may have financial ties to certain evacuation companies.

Most travel insurance includes a medical assistance benefit, which gives you 24-hour, year-round access to a company that

will arrange an evacuation for you with a credible evacuation company or, through their medical personnel, can help assure that you're getting appropriate treatment locally. The assistance company will also be available to help with other travel related problems like legal troubles, lost passports or credit cards, etc.

## THREE IMPORTANT COVERAGE TYPES

There are the three major types of coverage. Most travel insurance providers offer at least two of the three:

1. Supplemental health/accident insurance.

Generally pays for doctor and hospital bills, and sometimes dental care and medications. Preventive care, like an annual physical, is typically excluded.

2. Medical Evacuation. This is key. Evacuations can be expensive (as much as \$50,000 or more from a remote location).

3. Trip cancellation/interruption. These types of coverage protect you financially in the event you have to cancel or interrupt your trip for medical reasons. For example, say you purchase a \$5,000 cruise but can't take it because of personal illness or an illness in the family. Depending on when you cancel, a significant portion of the \$5,000 may be non-refundable.

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# The History of Christmas Gift, Card Exchanges

## THE SEA COAST ECHO

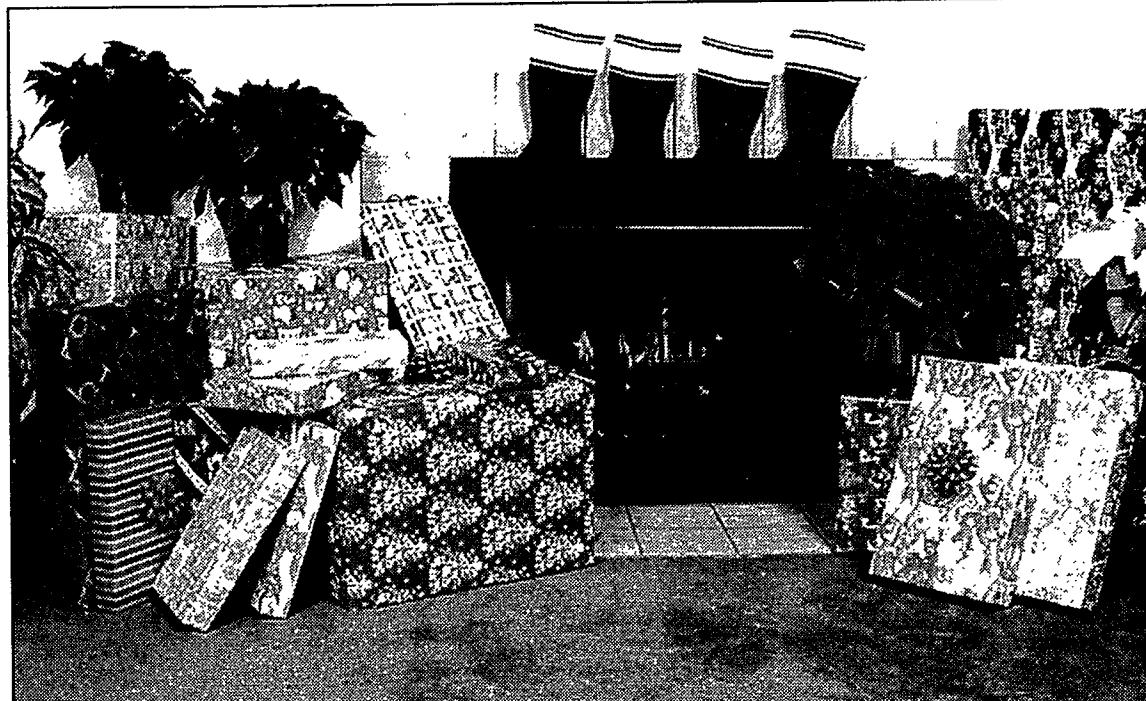
**F**rom candy canes to brightly decorated gingerbread houses to Santa Claus on every street corner, the holiday season brings some wonderful things. However, it also ushers in many time-consuming tasks — cooking the holiday meal, picking out the Christmas tree, and especially, buying the perfect gifts for loved ones and writing out holiday cards to faraway friends and family members.

Have you ever wondered about the origin of exchanging gifts and cards? According to Donald E. Dossey, Ph.D., author of "Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun" (Outcomes

Unlimited Press Inc.), by the 12th century, the practice of giving gifts had become common on Christmas, as well as on New Year's Day.

"It was believed to have come from the scriptural account, in Matthew 2:11, of the Three Magi who offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child," says Dossey.

The origin of sending Christmas cards, he says, began in England. "Edna Barth in 'Holly, Reindeer, and Colored Lights: The Story of Christmas Symbols,' says that in England, schoolboys away from home sent Christmas letters to their parents." The letters were printed on paper that had Bible scenes on it, written in



THE TRADITION OF EXCHANGING GIFTS and cards during the holiday season dates back to the 12th century.

their best penmanship. In the hopes of receiving money and gifts, they would tell their parents of their progress at school.

It was in 1839, after the introduction of the penny post in England, that the

true Christmas card tradition of sending cards to loved ones developed.

"One thousand copies of the card designed for Sir Henry Cole were sold. Usually regarded as the first of its kind, it was made by

J.C. Horsley, a member of the Royal Academy," says Dossey. In spite of its success, the custom did not become widespread in America until after the English royal family began sending cards.

## A Closer Look at Holiday Folklore

**S**uperstitions and folklore have a way of patterning our lives — from avoiding black cats to walking around ladders. Christmas is a time for cheer, but it also is filled with lots of folklore.

The following "Christmas Magic" is courtesy of "Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun" (Outcomes Unlimited Press Inc.), by Donald E. Dossey, Ph.D.

- Roasting chestnuts in a open fire, named for the available persons you know is a great divination ploy. The first one that pops will be the one you marry.
- If there is a full moon on Christmas, expect a poor harvest.
- If you do any household repairs on Christmas Day, the trouble will not be cured and even may get worse.
- Hang a sprig of mistletoe over the door. It will chase away the evil spirits and bring good luck.
- If you were born on Christmas Day, your life will be a happy and healthy one.
- Keep your Yule log burning all night. If it goes out, expect bad luck.
- Eat plenty of pies on Christmas. It is believed to bring good luck.

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# Begin Your Own Fun Family Traditions for Christmas

## THE SEA COAST ECHO

**T**he meaning of Christmas is sometimes obscured by long lines at the mall, begging children, and the stress of rushing around town. This holiday season, put the focus back on family and tradition, with some helpful ideas from Cynthia MacGregor, author of "Fun Family Traditions" (Meadowbrook Press).

\* Do you have a poet or composer in your family? Why not write your own Christmas carol this year? You can make changes to an existing song or write it from scratch. Music fills the holidays with memories and this Christmas will be extra spe-

cial with your own family song.

\* A homemade gift is the best kind for grandparents and close relatives. Devote an evening with your whole family, a few weeks before Christmas, for making gifts. Turn on the holiday music, make some hot chocolate, and have a great time.

\* Every Christmas package needs to be decorated. Making your own gift wrap this season is a fun way to personalize your gifts. Use colorful markers to add holiday warmth to brown wrapping paper, or use aluminum foil and stick-on stars to show the bright spirit of the season. Last year's Christmas cards are filled with holiday images

that can be cut out and pasted to make a festive package.

\* New traditions are wonderful ways to bring your family together, but old traditions, like baking Christmas cookies, should not be forgotten. Baking delicious cookies fills your home with the holiday spirit as well as the smell of nutmeg, chocolate, and cinnamon. They also make wonderful gifts!

"Fun Family Traditions" is packed with fun activities designed to strengthen families and help instill feelings of love, belonging, and family pride in all family members. It can be found in bookstores everywhere.

# Add Some Spice to the Season

## THE SEA COAST ECHO

**S**pice up your holiday meal. Try "Meatballs in Cinnamon-Onion Sauce," courtesy of "Sephardic Cuisine from Morocco" (Ten Speed Press).

**Meatballs in Cinnamon-Onion Sauce**  
Serves 12

4 onions  
1 pound lean ground beef  
2 slices crustless white bread, soaked in warm water and squeezed dry  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1 tablespoon "Top of the Shop" Spice Blend  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper  
2/3 cup water  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Grate 1 onion. Slice the remaining 3 onions into 1/4-inch slices.

In a large bowl, combine the grated onion, beef, bread, egg, spice blend, salt, and pepper. Mix thoroughly. Shape 1 rounded tablespoon into a ball about 1 1/4 inches in diameter, wetting your hands to prevent sticking. Repeat until all the meat mixture is used.

In a large saucepan, bring the water to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the meatballs, cover with the sliced onions, and sprinkle with the cinnamon. Decrease the heat to medium. Cook until the meatballs are not pink in the centers, 20 to 25 minutes.

**Top of the Shop" Spice Blend**

Makes about 2 1/2 tablespoons

2 teaspoons freshly ground allspice, or 2 teaspoons allspice berries

1 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg, or 1 whole nutmeg

2 teaspoons ground mace, or 2 1/2 teaspoons blade mace

1 teaspoon ground ginger, or 1 piece dried ginger root

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon, or 1 stick cinnamon

Combine all the ground ingredients. For whole spices, put in a small, non-stick skillet over medium heat. Toast, stirring, until they release their aroma, three to five minutes. Cool and grind in a spice grinder.

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# Enjoy a Happy, Healthy Holiday with Safe Pets

THE SEA COAST ECHO is the holiday season approaches, many of us are wondering how we'll spend the time with our loved ones. Increasingly, this means making special plans for our furry friends. More than ever, Americans are filling stockings with new chew toys, baking pet-friendly treats, and dressing their pets in the colors of the season. No matter how you choose to involve your pet in the holidays, there are some basic guidelines for keeping them safe and happy, courtesy of the ASPCA.

• Don't give your pets leftovers. Abrupt changes in your pet's diet can cause severe stomach distress, leading to vomiting and diarrhea. In addition, poultry bones splinter and can get caught in your pet's throat or digestive tract and popular chocolate treats are poisonous. If you want to give your dog or cat a taste of the holiday, serve them plain small portions of meat without sauces or spices and fresh veggies. Keep everything else — especially alcohol, chocolate, coffee, onions, yeast dough, salt, and spoiled or moldy food — out of reach.

• Do set aside a safe and quiet space for your pet during the commotion of the season, especially if you are expecting guests. Holiday crowds and noise can frighten many animals.

• Don't trim your home with poisonous plants and other decorations that can be harmful to your pets. Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and poinsettias can be poisonous, and candles and loose wiring can attract curious pets.

• Do let your cat or dog romp through wrapping paper and boxes, but remove ribbons, yarn, and aluminum foil first. If you let your pet play with shopping bags, be sure to cut away the handles, which can choke small pets.



PROTECT YOUR PETS this holiday season.

• Don't make your tree an attractive climbing post for your cat. Position your tree on a wide, flat, and stable base, and anchor the tree to a window or wall using fishing line. Always be sure to decorate with animal-safe items ornaments and avoid using popcorn strands, ribbons, tinsel, and glass ornaments, which can all be deadly if swallowed.

• Do provide fresh water for your pet at all times and be sure to keep cats and dogs away from Christmas tree water, which can contain fertilizers and bacteria that can upset your pet's stomach. Simply covering the bottom of your tree with a skirt or cloth can prevent problems.

• Don't let your pets drink or walk though a puddle of antifreeze. Anti-freeze has a pleasant taste, but can cause rapid and permanent kidney damage even if your pet drinks a very small amount. Clean any spills right away and store antifreeze in a tightly closed container and out of reach.

• Do include your pet on short trips if your pet travels well, but avoid flying with them. The ASPCA claims that over 5000 pets are injured or killed each year because of air travel, mostly due to dehydration and extreme temperatures. Be sure your pet is wearing a collar with your phone number.

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# Alcohol-Free Drinks Spice Up the Holidays

**THE SEA COAST ECHO**  
**W**arm or cold, these delicious non-alcoholic holiday drinks from "The Mocktail Bar Guide" (Meadowbrook Press) are perfect for a party full of guests or a cozy twosome in front of the fire.

## White Christmas Hot Chocolate

12 ounces of milk/ 1 1/4 ounces of finely chopped white chocolate/ 1 ounce of crushed peppermint or spearmint candy canes/ pinch

of salt/ whipped cream

Pour the milk into a saucepan and bring it to a simmer over medium heat. Reduce heat to medium-low. Add the chocolate, half of the crushed candy canes, and a pinch of salt. Whisk until smooth and creamy, then pour into a coffee mug. Top with whipped cream and remaining crushed candy canes.

## Quick Party Eggnog

1 cup of cold eggnog/ 1/3 tablespoon of ground cinn-

amon/ 1/3 banana/ 2/3 tablespoon maple syrup/ 1/3 tablespoon of ground nutmeg

Blend ingredients at medium speed. Pour into a glass and top with more nutmeg.

## Cranberry-Apple Wassail

8 cups of cranberry juice/ 3 cups of apple juice/ 5 small cinnamon sticks/ 1/3 cup of sugar/ 3/4 teaspoon of ground nutmeg/ 1 teaspoon of whole cloves/ 5 orange slices/ 3 lemon slices

In a saucepan bring the

first six ingredients to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat and cover. Simmer for ten minutes. Strain into a heat-resistant punch bowl. Add the fruit slices.

## Cold Chocolate Peppermint

2 scoops of chocolate ice cream/ 1 cup of cold milk/ dash of peppermint extract/ chocolate shavings/ peppermint candy cane

Blend the first three ingredients until smooth and

creamy. Pour into a glass and top with chocolate shavings and the candy cane.

"The Mocktail Bar Guide" has recipes for 200 alcohol-free drinks for nondrinkers, designated drivers, expectant mothers, and anyone who enjoys great tasting drinks. Portions of the proceeds from this book go to MADD. "The Mocktail Bar Guide" can be found in bookstores everywhere.

# Alcohol and Driving: A Dangerous Holiday Cocktail

**THE SEA COAST ECHO**  
**F**ree holiday entertaining tips and beverage recipes are helping party planners put their guests on the road to safety.

The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is encouraging party planners to become more aware of their role in reducing the number of impaired drivers, particularly at this time of year.

Party Planning Tips for a Holiday Season to Remember, a free holiday tip sheet from SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), offers a number of ways to enjoy the

holidays while helping to reduce the risk for impaired driving incidents.

For safer holiday celebrations, CSAP recommends that concerned partygivers take steps to avoid making alcohol the main focus of holiday celebrations, stop serving alcoholic beverages at least one hour before the end of the event, and remember that one in three adults prefers a non-alcoholic beverage.

Each holiday season the number of shoppers and travelers increases dramatically. Unfortunately, drivers under the influence of alcohol also crowd our streets and highways in greater numbers at this time of year—often with deadly consequences.

The facts can be sobering,

according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Data show that 17,000 people die each year as a result of impaired driving. Thanksgiving through New Years is by far the deadliest driving period of all. Of the approximately 5,000 driving fatalities in the 2001 holiday season, more than 2,000 (41.5 percent) were alcohol related.

The tip sheet also offers recipes for interesting non-

alcoholic drinks and provides helpful information such as using a non-carbonated base, like fruit juice, to slow down the body's absorption of alcohol.

To receive a free copy of Party Planning Tips for a Holiday Season to Remember, call SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 1-800-729-6686 or visit:

<http://ncadi.samhsa.gov>.

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## Trees

uct would sell over those trucked in from northern states.

Some 600 growers joined the Louisiana-Mississippi Christmas Tree Growers Association in the mid-1980s, Gernon said. It proved to be too much for the market to handle.

"It was rooted in the fact that folks thought they could stick some trees in the ground and come back four years later and make a pile of money," said Gernon, now treasurer of the National Christmas Tree Association. "It just generated this tremendous glut of trees locally in the two states and other parts of the South."

In Mississippi, the number of Christmas tree growers dropped from 400 in 1987 to 120 in 1997, according to Steve Dicke, an extension professor and residential Christmas tree expert at Mississippi State University. Today, there are about 90 growers in the state, Dicke said.

The Louisiana-Mississippi association has seen its membership decline from 100 five years ago to 75 today, said Mimi Bennett, the group's executive secretary.

The decline in growers helped those still in the market gain customers, but

other factors are working against Southern tree growers.

For one, artificial trees are more popular than ever. Fake trees last year outnumbered real trees in American homes by more than 2-to-1, according to data from the National Christmas Tree Association.

Additionally, national retailers and grocery stores have jumped into the Christmas tree business. Many would-be customers are lured by the cheap prices and the convenience of being able to pick up a tree when buying a gallon of milk.

May said his father recently went to a hardware store for equipment and with his purchase received a coupon for a free Christmas tree.

"When they're giving them away, you've got to do something different," May said.

To protect their market from further erosion, Christmas tree growers have retooled their strategy. The result is "agritainment" — marketing farms as a family adventure.

Today, along with trees, many growers offer holiday shoppers sleigh rides, live entertainment and petting zoos.

"It's a continuing process

Continued from Page 3

of reinventing yourself," said May.

Dicke said there is now room for the market to grow.

But despite better market conditions, many predict Deep South growers will continue to decline in number over the next five years.

The biggest problem is the age of the farm owners. Many growers in Mississippi and Louisiana are reaching the age where they can no longer meet the physical demands of maintaining their farms.

"A lot of it is the graying of the industry," May said.

Bennett said three-quarters of the Louisiana-Mississippi association's members are over the age of 60.

Their children often are not interested in taking over operations, and farmers can find themselves having to give up their farms. But the resulting dip should be temporary, Gernon said.

"The production of Christmas trees is maybe something the younger people will shun, but when they get to a certain point in life, human tradition becomes important. When you get into your 40s and early 50s, you realize the benefit of that."

"That's what happened to me," Gernon said.

## Gifted

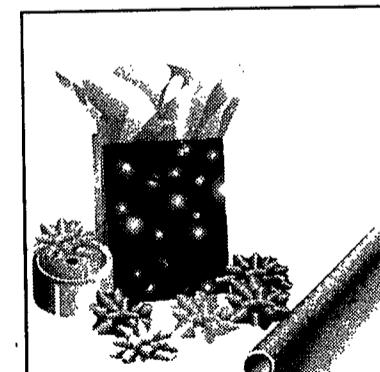
observations of others about the extravagance of the gift or the generosity of the giver.

• Generosity — Resourceful gifts reveal how special the recipient is to the giver.

Often, endowments of the giver's time, effort or creativity are the most generous and memorable characteristics of a gift.

• Indulgence — It pampering, it humors, it appeases, it satisfies — the perfect gift says there is something extraordinary about the recipient in the eyes of the giver.

• Surprise — Careful and discreet planning can catch



even the most suspecting recipient off guard. A sponta-

neous gift even can be more fun.

**Handcrafted gifts are especially popular around the holidays. Typically inexpensive, they also show off your creative side and attention to detail. A simple wooden picture frame, painted gold, sprayed with glitter and adorned with metal stars is a simple way to spread some holiday cheer. Customize the frame with your own special message for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa.**

neous gift even can be more fun.

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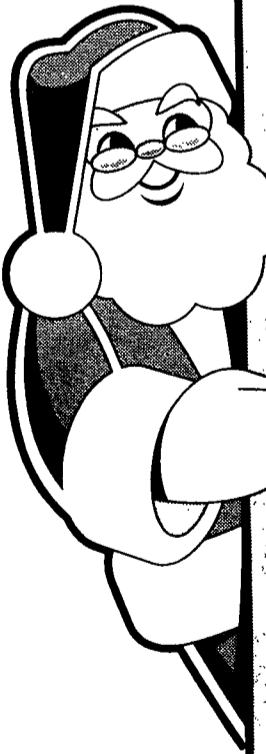
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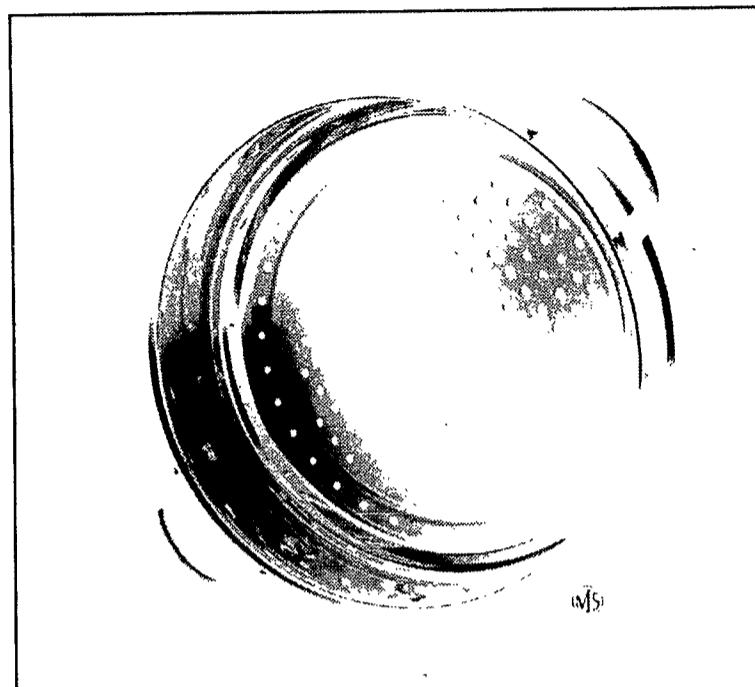
## Cook -- wares

Continued from Page 12

ware — for even heating and durability — coated with porcelain, which allows for the use of bright, vibrant colors on the exterior. The cookware has a nonstick interior for easy cleaning. The 1 3/4-quart fondue set is available in four colors — red, blue, yellow and black, and comes with six fondue forks, a nesting rack and a sterno holder.

• No kitchen is complete without a nonstick skillet and even cooks with well-stocked kitchens will appreciate the features and benefits of the Anolon Titanium 12-inch skillet. Anolon Titanium is the first non-stick, hard-anodized cookware that is dishwasher safe with certain dishwasher gels. The 12-inch skillet, which retails for \$90, is the workhorse of the line and features a "helper handle" for ease-of-lifting. Anolon Titanium not only looks as good as it performs, but it cleans up as easily, too.

• The Anolon Advanced Saucier, which comes with a whisk, is a unique cookware gift for the gourmet on your gift list. The 2 1/2-quart saucier features a premium nonstick coating — which has been tested by profes-



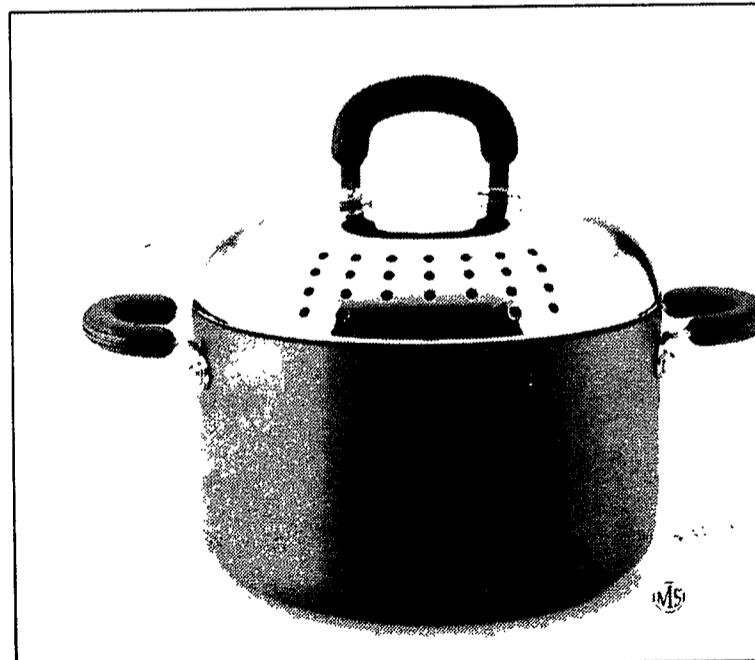
The KitchenAid Cookware Steamer Insert.

sional chefs — on both the inside and the outside that helps the pot stand up to rigorous use and cleaning. Priced between \$40 and \$80, the pot and the lid are oven-safe to 375 F. to allow even more flexibility.

• The KitchenAid Cookware Steamer Insert fits all KitchenAid Cookware 12-inch sauté pans, 12-inch stir fry pans and 12-quart

stockpots.

The stainless steel steamer insert is priced from \$50 to \$100, and has a stackable design to fit snugly in the various cookware pieces. It's ideal for steaming long vegetables like asparagus, warming tortillas and dim sum, or for a variety of other cooking tasks.



The Circulon Classic Colander Pot with straining lid.

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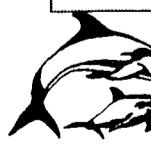
HWY 90

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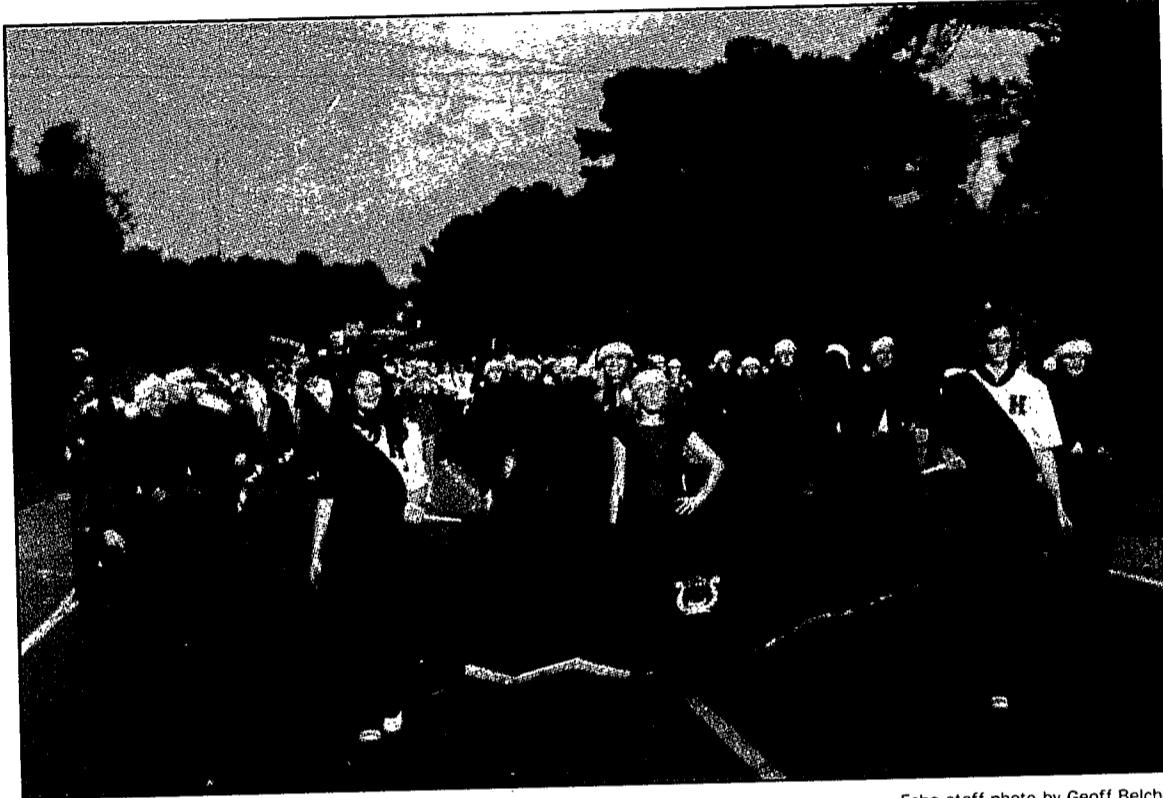


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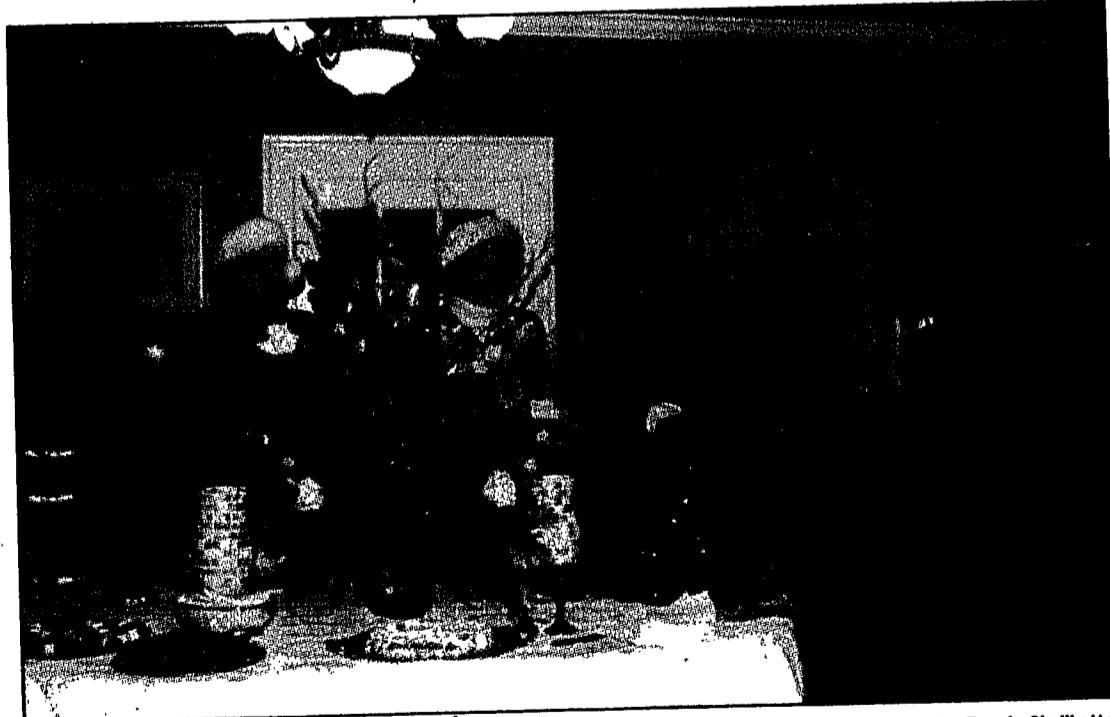
# Happy Holidays



Echo staff photo by Bennie Shallbetter  
Members of the Asgard Motorcycle Club of the Gulf Coast donated thousands of dollars' worth of toys and merchandise across the Coast this holiday season during their 18th annual toy drive..



Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher  
The Hancock High School Band wowed the cheering masses Saturday at the annual Christmas parade in Pearlington.

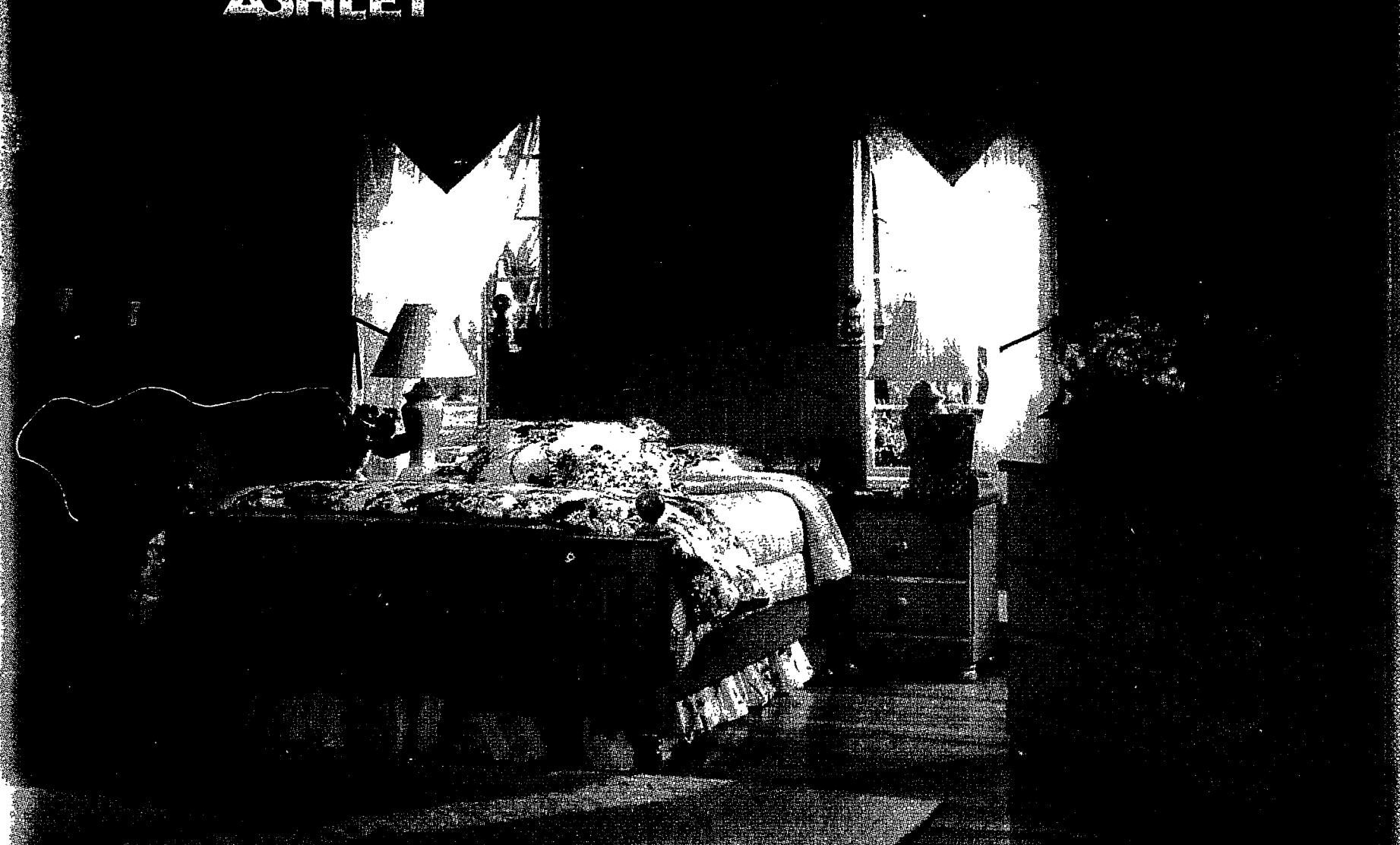


Echo Staff Photo by Bennie Shallbetter  
Members of the Red Hat Society hosted a Christmas tea at the Palm House Bed and Breakfast this week. Besides a providing a good time, the occasion was also used to gather donations for the Hancock County Food Pantry. Hostesses included left to right: Gayle Egan, Judy Barrett, Myrt Haas, Terry Sullivan, Bobby Staehle, Margie Morken, Betty Holleman and seated, Julia Ann Caruso. Not pictured are Carol Hansell and Nell Frisbie.



Echo staff photo by Randy Ponder  
Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at Choice Market in Waveland.

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